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Near East & South Asia

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Islamic Affairs

ICO: Jerusalem Issue, 242 'Essential' for Peace

LD2909033193 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1815 GMT
28 Sep 93

[Text] New York, 28 Sep—The secretary general of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO], Hamid Algabid, welcomed the progress made in the Middle East peace process regarding the Palestinian self-rule in Gaza and Jericho.

In a statement included in a report submitted to the coordinating meeting of the Islamic countries' foreign ministers on Holy Jerusalem and Palestine, he praised the positive spirit and cooperation demonstrated by the Arab delegations and the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, at the peace talks, which signified the strong desire of the region's peoples to achieve a just and comprehensive peace.

Dr. Algabid stressed that the ICO view the temporary arrangements as a daring initial step toward the objective of a just and lasting settlement that would lead to Israeli withdrawal from Holy Jerusalem and all the occupied Palestinian and Arab territories. In this context, the ICO secretary general expressed his hope that an agreement of that nature would in the end lead to the realization of all the Palestinian people's legitimate and inalienable rights.

Dr. Hamid Algabid reaffirmed that the issue of Jerusalem and Palestine are the most important issues that concern the ICO, and that the implementation of the UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and the principle of land for peace are two [as received] essential and indispensable conditions for a just and lasting peace in the Middle East.

In his report to the coordinating meeting of Islamic countries' foreign ministers on Holy Jerusalem and Palestine, which was the coordinating meeting held on the fringes of the new session of the UN General Assembly in New York, the ICO secretary general reviewed the developments that accompanied the agreement between the PLO and Israel on self-rule, declaration of principles, and mutual recognition between the PLO and Israel within the framework of the Middle East peace process efforts.

On the other hand, the ICO secretary general stressed again that in view of its prominent position to all Muslims, the city of Holy Jerusalem would remain a major subject for all Islamic countries and it could not be ignored or compromised.

In his statement in New York yesterday at the meeting of the six-member committee on Palestine, he said that the Islamic countries would remain committed to work for the return of Jerusalem to Palestinian and Islamic sovereignty, pointing out that on the basis of that the member-states of the ICO welcomed the recent Israeli-Palestinian agreement. He said that the ICO would

continue its support, with all its capabilities, for the efforts made by the leadership of the PLO to reach the desired peace.

He called on the Israeli authorities to stop acts of repression and terrorism, avoid the persistent violations of Palestinian human rights, release all its Palestinian political detainees, facilitate the return of all those expelled, stop the sequestration of land and establishment of settlements, and end the isolation of Holy Jerusalem from the rest of the occupied territories.

He also called on Israel to stop its persistent aggression on Lebanon and its Palestinian camps, to create a positive climate for the success of the peace process.

The ICO secretary general said that for peace to be just and comprehensive, and bring stability and security to the whole of the Middle East region, an agreement at all the other fronts—Syrian, Jordanian, and Lebanese—must be reached that would guarantee complete Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Golan Heights and the occupied Jordanian and Lebanese territories.

Palestinian Affairs

PLO Meetings, PFLP-DFLP Moves Reported

JN2909033193 Tunisian AL-RAYY in Arabic 29 Sep 93 p 24

[By 'Awdah 'Awdah]

[Text] The Palestinian leadership decided at its meeting, which began in the Tunisian capital yesterday under the chairmanship of President Yasir 'Arafat, to charge Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh and Dr. Nabil Sha'ith with representing the PLO at the international conference aimed at supporting the peace accord between the PLO and Israel. The international conference will convene in the American capital the day after tomorrow, Friday [1 October], under the patronage of President Bill Clinton.

In a telephone contact with AL-RAYY, a participant in the Palestinian leadership meetings in Tunis said that it has been decided to ask the head and members of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks and the advisory committee to participate in the Palestinian leadership meetings and in the PLO Central Council meeting to be held on 10 October in Tunisia.

A Palestinian source denied that the Palestinian leadership discussed, during its Tunis meetings, the formation of an interim Palestinian government to take over a number of authorities from the Israelis following their expected withdrawal at the end of this year.

Palestinian sources, which are in contact with the Tunisian capital, told AL-RAYY that today, Wednesday, the Palestinian leadership will form 13 committees and name their members from inside and outside the occupied territory to participate in the Palestinian-Israeli talks in accordance with the Gaza-Jericho agreement.

The Palestinian-Israeli talks are expected to begin one month after the signing of the agreement.

In another development, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] have called on their central committees to hold separate emergency meetings in the Syrian capital. An official PFLP source told AL-RA'Y that the PFLP Central Committee began its meetings in Damascus yesterday, while the DFLP Central Committee will hold its meeting in Damascus tomorrow, Thursday.

PFLP and DFLP sources told AL-RA'Y that PFLP Secretary General Dr. George Habash and DFLP Secretary General Nayif Hawatimah will hold joint meetings with members of the PFLP and DFLP Political Bureaus and Central Committees to prepare for the future steps following the withdrawal of Fatah and the Palestinian People's Party from the Unified National Leadership of the Intifadah in the wake of the signing of the Gaza-Jericho First in the American capital on 13 September.

The PFLP and DFLP sources stressed that practical steps will be taken on the ground to unify action and escalate armed struggle inside the occupied territory. These sources ruled out any participation in the meetings of the PLO Central Council to endorse the Gaza-Jericho accord. However, PFLP and DFLP leaders said that the two fronts' central committees will put the participation to the vote.

PFLP and DFLP officials said that the intifadah will continue until the removal of the occupation, adding that the intifadah call No. 99 will be issued at the beginning of next month.

Factions Said Considering Reuniting

NC2809180693 Paris AFP in English 1430 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Text] Damascus, Sept 28 (AFP)—Two radical PLO factions opposed to the autonomy deal with Israel are looking into a possible reunification, a Palestinian official here told AFP on Tuesday [28 September].

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) will over the next two weeks study formulas for reunification, said Dawud Talhami of the DFLP's Political Bureau.

He said the proposal was raised at a meeting Sunday chaired by the leaders of the PFLP and DFLP, George Habash and Nayif Hawatimah.

The two Damascus-based groups have rejected the PLO-Israeli accord on limited autonomy starting in the occupied Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho.

Hawatimah broke away from the PFLP more than 20 years ago to form the DFLP.

A member of the Central Committee of the PLO's main faction, Fatah, Hani al-Hassan has been in Damascus since Sunday for talks with Palestinian opponents of the peace deal.

He met separately with Habash and Hawatimah to discuss ways to combat the autonomy deal, Palestinian sources said.

Most of the leadership of Fatah, which is headed by PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, approved the autonomy deal before it was signed in Washington on September 13.

Hani al-Hasan Meets Opposition Figures in Damascus

JN2809190493 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Report by Mahasin al-Imam from Damascus]

[Text] Fatah Central Committee Member Hani al-Hasan has held a series of meetings in Damascus. He met today with Nayif Hawatimah, Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] secretary general. In two lengthy meetings, they discussed means and ways to confront and foil the Palestinian-Israeli agreement. They also discussed the threats the agreement poses to the Palestinian people and cause.

Earlier, Hani al-Hasan met with George Habash, Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine secretary general, and Khalid al-Fahum, president of the Palestinian National Salvation Front.

In a statement issued today, the DFLP said the agreement constitutes a coup against the PLO and a departure from its regulations and coalitionist nature and does not enjoy any legitimacy. The DFLP reiterated its call for popular conferences in the occupied homeland and the diaspora camps to deprive the party that signed the agreement of legitimacy and to elect representatives to a general Palestinian national conference.

Damascus Radio today said Israel wants to cast doubts on Syria's credibility about peace because it has entered into the beginning of a partial peace with the Palestinians. It said Israel wishes to utilize this agreement—which, according to the radio commentary, is open to the unknown and whose current formula does not guarantee any of the internationally recognized Palestinian rights—to pressure the Arab states into ending the state of war and the economic boycott. The Syrian radio stressed that the media campaign launched by Israel, both inside and outside, to cast doubts about Syria's credibility about peace, aims at dealing with Syria separately in order to distance it from the comprehensive peace formula that it advocates.

Al-Hut May Attend 10 Oct Central Council Meeting

NC2809134993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1250 GMT
28 Sep 93

[Text] Beirut, 28 Sep (MENA)—Director of the PLO office in Lebanon Shafiq al-Hut, who resigned objecting to the Palestinian-Israeli agreement on Gaza and Jericho, has said he is seriously considering attending the PLO Central Council meetings in Tunis on 10 October.

In a statement to a MENA correspondent in Beirut, he said his resignation from his post and from the PLO Executive Committee does not preclude his participation in the meetings of the 100-member Central Council.

He expressed his belief that Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat will face no major obstacles in winning over Central Council majority approval for the Gaza-Jericho plan as part of the democratic process to make a decision ratifying the agreement, although there is opposition from other Palestinian organizations.

Asked whether he will join a new organization of the Palestinian opposition forces that reject the Palestinian-Israeli agreement, he said he does not intend to join any opposition organization or formation, noting that he rejected the agreement out of a national political conviction. He said: I made the decision after I resigned to isolate myself from both the supporting and opposing sides.

On reports about a dialogue starting between the PLO and Hamas [the Islamic Resistance Movement], he said he has no contacts with Hamas and no information on the issue.

He did not rule out the possibility of meeting 'Arafat during his visit to Tunis. He said he will ask 'Arafat to define the future status of over 250,000 Palestinians living as refugees in Lebanon without financial resources and whose salaries and financial dues have not been disbursed for over three months. He affirmed that the Palestinians reject any policy or agreement that aims to settle them outside their occupied land.

Asked his view of the Arab stance on the Palestinian-Israeli agreement, al-Hut said it seems the majority have expressed support for and satisfaction with this agreement.

Council To Add Members From Territories

LD2809141593 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio
Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Excerpt] The Palestine Central Council [PCC] is getting ready to hold a meeting on 10 October in Tunis. The meeting aims at adopting the agreement signed on 13 September in Washington between the PLO and Israel. Within this framework, it was learned today in Amman that the PLO has decided to increase the number of the members of the PCC by adding 70 personalities from the occupied territories. [passage omitted]

Council Said Not Authorized To Ratify Accord

NC2809161993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1305 GMT
28 Sep 93

[Text] Amman, 28 Sep (MENA)—Palestine National Council [PNC] Speaker Shaykh 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Sa'ih, who had previously announced his intention to resign his chairmanship of the PNC during the first meeting of the Council, has affirmed that the [PLO Central] Council is not authorized to discuss important issues, such as the ratification of the agreement with Israel, unless the PNC gives it special authorization.

In a statement to a MENA correspondent, he said that he has not received any official notification on convening a PLO Central Council session in Tunis. He noted that he is responsible for calling the Central Council into session in his capacity as PNC speaker.

On reports that the PNC will hold its next session in Jerusalem or Jericho, he explained that these are unofficial proposals. He affirmed that the speaker must call for any session of the Council and that he is still speaker of the PNC.

Envoy to Jordan on Aid Conference, Confederation

NC2809170793 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0510
GMT 28 Sep 93

[Telephone interview with al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, Fatah Central Committee member and ambassador to Jordan, in Amman, by Ramadan Husayn in Cairo, on the "Dialogue From Afar" program; date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Husayn] Welcome to the Voice of the Arabs.

['Abd-al-Rahim] Thank you and good morning.

[Husayn] Mr. Ambassador, there have been successive Arab, regional, and international reactions to the Palestinian-Israeli declaration of principles. An international conference to support the Gaza-Jericho plan is scheduled to open in a few days. How do you view the conference?

['Abd-al-Rahim] The Palestinian economic infrastructure, no doubt, has been destroyed by more than 25 years of occupation. To achieved stability in the region and to ensure that the agreement will succeed and achieve its objective—Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Palestinian territory—the Palestinian people must be supported economically and the infrastructure of this newborn entity must be built. If this is obstructed, things will not succeed. This is the conviction of all parties, including the Israelis, the Americans, and all rich countries. Thus, the United States and other big industrial countries called for a conference to support the infrastructure and economic foundations of the Palestinian entity. But the Palestinian people must essentially depend on their own capabilities and on Arab countries. Some people are pessimistic. They say that we are being given merely verbal promises, and that they [the West]

may treat us as they have treated Gorbachev or others, giving us only promises. But I believe that this is a different situation because it involves stability in the Middle East, a region that can be ignited by a match. This stability is an American strategy. Moreover, we are not costly. Therefore, the Palestinian people and stability in the region must be supported. [passage omitted]

[Husayn] Let me now move to another issue that I believe is important: confederation with Jordan. There have been many rumors on this issue. How do you view this issue, and what is Jordan's position toward it?

[Abd-al-Rahim] In its session in 1983 the Palestine National Council [PNC] approved a confederation between Palestine and Jordan. In subsequent PNC sessions in 1984 and 1988 the same principle was approved again. This, then, is not a unilateral decision made by Yasser 'Arafat, the PLO Executive Committee, or the Palestinian leadership. It is the decision of the Palestinian people. In this decision the Palestinian people proceed from the fact that their relations with the Jordanian people are special and that this can be translated into a confederation. But first a Palestinian entity must exist and a popular referendum must be held in this entity. I believe that the majority of the Palestinian people support a confederation with fraternal Jordan.

His Majesty King Husayn proceeded from a desire to see firm steps taken so that they can succeed. Firm steps must be put to popular vote. I believe that Jordan cannot do without Palestine, Palestine cannot do without Jordan, and both cannot do without their Arab nation. We also need to coordinate with Egypt and all Arab countries and to be an active Arab League member. But the distinguished relations between the Palestinian and Jordanian peoples can be translated into a confederation. [passage omitted]

[Husayn] What about the PLO-Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] meeting that was due to take place in Yemen?

[Abd-al-Rahim] We are ready to hold the meeting. The brothers in Hamas set the condition that brothers Yasser 'Arafat and Mahmud 'Abbas must not attend. This is inconceivable. The Fatah decision was made by the organization and those who opposed it are committed to it. It is unacceptable that they should set conditions before the dialogue or decide who should sit with them. But I believe we will still take this into consideration out of our concern for the newborn, we are the baby's mother; for national unity; and for mobilizing all efforts to advance this step.

[Husayn] Thank you, and you are always welcome to the Voice of the Arabs.

[Abd-al-Rahim] Thank you very much.

Al-Husayni Discusses Next Stage of Negotiations

PM/2809/144793 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 24 Sep 93 p 3

[Interview with Fayal al-Husayni, chairman of the steering committee of the delegation to the peace negotiations, by Sawwan Abu-Husayn in Cairo, date not given]

[Text] [Abu-Husayn] Will the Palestinian delegation continue to work within the new composition after the raised level of representation in the negotiations with Israel?

[Al-Husayni] The Palestinian delegation representation will be amended in line with this current new phase. In other words, new members from inside and outside [the occupied territories], including Jerusalem, will join the delegation—but that does not necessarily mean a complete change of the Palestinian negotiating delegation.

[Abu-Husayn] When will the new delegation be formed?

[Al-Husayni] By the beginning of the new round of negotiations.

[Abu-Husayn] Will you continue to work with the Palestinian negotiating team or will you be assigned other tasks?

[Al-Husayni] The names of the members of the Palestinian delegation have not been agreed upon yet but we can say that we are approaching a new phase that requires hard serious work and preparations for an early assumption of authority in Gaza and Jericho—in relation to various departments such as education and health. Good preparations are also needed for the elections in the occupied territories and for the development of the present institutions in Jerusalem, particularly the religious and tourist institutions. That requires hard work to ensure that the Palestinians would, in less than two years, have strong institutions in Jerusalem that would enable us to preserve and protect our rights there.

[Abu-Husayn] Has agreement been reached on the next round of negotiations?

[Al-Husayni] Yes. That might take place in the middle of next month.

[Abu-Husayn] Has a specific agenda been drawn up for that round?

[Al-Husayni] The next round will discuss everything to do with the provisions of the agreement, such as the method of withdrawal, organization of crossing points, and definition of the real executive area of Jericho and whether it is going to be a province, a district or just a town. The discussions will cover the search for solutions to the problems of Israeli and Palestinian security in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, the link between Israeli imports and Palestinian imports, and the displaced persons issue. All these are issues and points which require long detailed discussions.

[Abu-Husayn] In your view, what problems will the committees in charge of implementing the agreement face?

[Al-Husayni] Those of the security arrangements and Palestinian-Israeli relationship at the crossing points.

[Abu-Husayn] What do you mean by security arrangements?

[Al-Husayni] This is a matter of details. For instance, in the event of an intra-Palestinian clash, the Palestinian security authority would deal with the matter. But when there is a Palestinian-Israeli clash, the two sides would resort to a joint committee.

[Abu-Husayn] Does the Palestinian leadership intend to form a provisional Palestinian government to take over authority from the Israelis?

[Al-Husayni] The question of forming a provisional government is just media talk. What is really taking place is the formation of a national authority, even before the elections, from efficient Palestinian figures capable of taking charge regardless of whether they are from inside or outside [the occupied territories].

[Abu-Husayn] Will some members of the Palestinian negotiating team join that authority?

[Al-Husayni] A fighter is not necessarily a negotiator, and a negotiator does not necessarily have to be a member of the Palestinian authority. Every phase has its own men. In other words, the logic that some men are good for two or three phases may not prevail. To put it more clearly, there may be some change of positions in the sense that whoever is negotiating today might be transferred to some other position. As I said before, the new phase requires that each one of us play his part in the peaceful political struggle whatever his position.

[Abu-Husayn] But from time to time some names are mentioned as candidates for a Palestinian provisional government.

[Al-Husayni] What has been said so far is mere speculation. Nothing has been decided yet, but it all has to do with the formation of a national authority.

[Abu-Husayn] Could you explain to us the implications of the Fatah-Hamas reconciliation and the recent agreement?

[Al-Husayni] There has been no reconciliation in the sense of an agreement. All that happened was a kind of understanding to avoid clashes between Fatah and Hamas on the grounds that the opposition would express itself but without bloodshed. Consequently, there emerged in Gaza what has been called a side agreement reached in prisons that happen to house members of both sides. The same situation occurred the day the Gaza-Jericho agreement was signed. We resolved the matter as follows: The opposition would express its views from morning until 1500 hours and then the supporters of the agreement would have their celebrations from that time until the evening. In doing so we

managed to reach an agreement that enabled all factions to express their views without any clashes.

[Abu-Husayn] Is a meeting for reconciliation and agreement among all the Palestinian factions being contemplated, particularly as Yemen has expressed willingness to host such a conference?

[Al-Husayni] That is needed but it will take time. The Yemeni proposal is not a bad one, but I prefer such a conference to be held in Gaza because its effect would be much greater.

[Abu-Husayn] Will the Palestine National Council [PNC] meet in Jericho within two months?

[Al-Husayni] That is just speculation. It is important that it convenes in Jericho. The Israeli authorities would not stand in our way, particularly as Israel has recognized the PLO and all its bodies and institutions. Furthermore, the territory will be under our control because the withdrawal will be completed in less than four months.

[Abu-Husayn] Has Israel raised again the idea of a confederation with it?

[Al-Husayni] That is premature. Israel must first change many of its ideas if we are to be able to make such a decision. It should also end the policy of discrimination between Muslims and Christians. I say that if Israel wants to be a part of the Middle East it should distance itself from the discrimination laws. The more it moves in that direction the closer we get to the implementation of a full and comprehensive peace. We remind them of a recent example: The normalization with Egypt has not proceeded the way Israel wanted it to go because Israel has not changed its old ideas yet.

[Abu-Husayn] What about Palestinian-Jordanian coordination? Anything new there?

[Al-Husayni] Coordination with Jordan is entering a new phase. Many issues will be discussed by the two sides following the initial Jordanian-Israeli agreement, such as, for instance, the crossing points issue and the borders between Jordan, Palestine, and Israel.

[Abu-Husayn] How do you view the Syrian and Lebanese criticism of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement?

[Al-Husayni] In my view, it is just a summer cloud that will pass quickly, particularly as the agreement we reached with Israel and Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Palestinian territory on the basis of Resolutions 242 and 338 will benefit the Syrian front in bringing about withdrawal from the Golan.

[Abu-Husayn] Do you believe that the Gaza-Jericho agreement gives the Israelis some gains in the multilateral negotiations?

[Al-Husayni] Any progress in the multilateral negotiations would depend on what happens in the bilateral negotiations. Any Israeli agreement with Syria and with

Lebanon would open the way for a major relaxation in the multilateral negotiations.

'Arafat Adviser Comments on Gaza-Jericho Timetable

LD2909001893 *Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic*
1702 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Text] Dr. Nabil Sha'th, political adviser to brother leader President Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], has stressed that the timetable for Israeli withdrawal will open with negotiations with the Israeli Government on 13 October and conclude on 14 July 1994.

Brother Nabil Sha'th said that it has been agreed that brother President Abu 'Ammar and the Palestinian leadership will enter Gaza and Jericho on 13 January 1994, the same day as the Palestinian forces begin exercising power and the Palestinian administration begins taking over education, health, social affairs, tourism, finance, and employment.

In a speech to a conference held by Palestinian trade unions in the occupied territories, in the Egyptian town of al-'Arich, he added that full withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho will terminate on 12 April, after which the national authorities will begin their rule of the liberated Palestinian territories in Gaza and Jericho and Palestinian police will begin their duties. Meanwhile the Israeli Army will begin its withdrawal from the West Bank towns of Hebron, Nablus, Ramallah, Jinin, and Bethlehem and take positions at particular points to protect Jewish settlements.

Brother Nabil Sha'th pointed out that agreement has been reached on holding elections in the liberated Palestinian territories on 13 July in order to set up a Palestinian authority during the transitional period. After this, the quadripartite committee comprising Egypt, Palestine, Israel, and Jordan will begin work to arrange for the return of refugees. Palestine will then emerge on the world map after more than 22 months of arduous negotiations.

Brother Nabil Sha'th explained at the conference that an agreement has been reached with the World Bank and the U.S., Canadian, Belgian, and Saudi Arabian governments whereby they will support the independent Palestinian state. In addition, negotiations are being held with Egypt to develop and reconstruct the liberated regions, to deal with Palestinian staff in the technical field, and to provide technicians in all specializations.

Brother Nabil Sha'th stressed anew that the declaration of principles agreement between the PLO and Israel is a transitional period to achieve autonomy and will be followed by a final phase of five years during which an independent Palestinian state will be set up. He pointed out that 800,000 Palestinian refugees from 1967 will be repatriated during the transitional period, while the rest of the refugees, those from 1948, will be repatriated once an independent Palestinian state has been declared.

East Jerusalem To Be Palestinian Seat in 2 Years

NC2809154693 *Cairo MENA in Arabic* 1321 GMT
28 Sep 93

[Text] Rabat, 28 Sep (MENA)—Palestinian Ambassador in Rabat Abu-Marwan has said that the historical headquarters of the government house—the Orient House—in East Jerusalem will be the headquarters of the new Palestinian government after two years.

In a statement to a MENA correspondent in Morocco, he added that the Palestinian flag flew over this house the day the Palestinian-Israeli accord was signed and that the Israeli authorities prevented many demonstrators who tried to lower the flag and kept it hoisted. He noted that all meetings with U.S. and other officials have been held in this house.

Replying to a question, Abu-Marwan said: We like it to be said that we began a new era—the era of establishing a state—amid opposition and not by using dictatorial measures. He added that the Palestinians welcome opposition and other opinions.

'Arafat Appoints Officials To Administer Gaza-Jericho

PM2809112193 *London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic* 23 Sep 93 p 2

[Unattributed report: "'Abd-al-Shafi and 'Ashrawi Among Self-Rule Authority Appointments"]

[Text] Amman, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Palestinian sources in Amman have said that President Yasir 'Arafat recently issued a decision appointing a number of Palestinian figures to leading positions in the Palestinian self-rule administration in Gaza and Jericho.

The sources told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the decision included appointing Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi deputy director general of the self-rule health administration, Lawyer Furayh Abu-Madyan legal adviser to the self-rule administration, and Dr. Yasir 'Ubayd mayor of Jericho to succeed Jericho's present mayor, Jamil Sabri Khalaf.

The sources pointed out that 'Arafat has appointed Mrs. Intisar al-Wazir, Mrs. Hanan 'Ashrawi, and Mrs. Zuhayrah Kamal to leading positions in the Palestinian self-rule administration in Gaza and Jericho. However, the sources declined to reveal the three posts to be occupied by the three ladies.

The sources also said that the Palestinian president is in the process of appointing Hakam Bal'awi, PLO ambassador to Tunisia, as director of Palestinian intelligence; Colonel Muhammad Khalid al-'Imlah, one of the Palestinian Liberation Army commanders in Tunis, as director of the Palestinian police force in Jericho; and Brigadier al-Hajj Isma'il as director of the Palestinian police in Gaza.

Rejectionist Front Sets Up Body To Continue Intifadah

TA2809140393 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew
28 Sep 93 p 6

[Report by Yoram Binur]

[Text] The rejectionist front and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists have set up an underground body identical to Fatah's Unified National Leadership of the Intifadah.

The new body, which is also called the Unified National Leadership, brings together activists from the three organizations. Its aims are to continue the intifadah and the struggle against Israel, despite Israel's agreement with the PLO and to try create a focal point of opposition to the regime being set up by 'Arafat in the territories, which is based only on Fatah activists.

Palestinian sources associated with the rejectionist organizations told HADASHOT that in their view Fatah is currently setting up in the territories a police and security infrastructure aimed, first of all, at terrorizing Palestinian opponents of the peace accord. According to the same sources, 'Arafat acts not as the head of the PLO, but only as Fatah leader. To illustrate their charges, they raised the dissemination of Palestinian flags on which only the word Fatah is sown. They also claimed that members of rejectionist organizations are afraid of a blood bath by the Palestinian police force belonging to Fatah.

Palestinian sources also reported that in the past few days activists in the opposition organizations such as Hamas and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine tried to join the ranks of the Palestinian police. Their personal details were registered, but the sources believe that since Fatah mans the committees very thorough investigations will be carried out on each candidate and those who are not known Fatah members will be rejected.

Israeli sources close to the Palestinian left reported recently that some Palestinian leftist activists questioned them about the possibility of receiving asylum if Fatah activists in the territories hound them.

Fatah Official Comments on U.S. Position Toward PLO

PM2909083993 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic
24 Sep 93 pp 22-23

[Interview with Fatah Central Committee member Khalid al-Hasan by Radwan al-Sa'di in Rabat; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Al-Sa'di] You participated in the first meeting between Washington and the PLO in 1974, specifically in Rabat, where you met with the man of secret missions in the U.S. Administration, Vernon Walters. Was this the first in the series of meetings that led 'Arafat to the White House lawn?

[Al-Hasan] The meeting I held with Vernon Walters in Rabat in 1974 was official. It was organized by King Hassan II. But Henry Kissinger interfered and obstructed the meetings. So they were not benefited from as in the past. After Nixon's departure, Washington boycotted the PLO. The aim of the experiment was to exchange views. [passage omitted]

I must point out here that Nixon himself promised that the Palestinians would obtain their rights in a message he sent to the late King Faysal [of Saudi Arabia]. There was a glimmer of hope. But Kissinger's arrival disrupted the equation and froze meetings between Washington and the PLO for 14 years.

[Al-Sa'di] I understand from your statement that the PLO initiated the dialogue with Washington in 1974 on the basis of an official policy and that the Americans responded to it.

[Al-Hasan] The dialogue was not at the PLO level. It was a decision by Yasser 'Arafat. I left Beirut for Rabat accompanied by the late Majid Abu-Sharar, and the meeting was official, not a secret meeting. It was not public, in order to avoid the media. It was an ordinary meeting through official channels. It did not produce any results because of Kissinger.

[Al-Sa'di] Can it be said that President Clinton's administration—compared with previous administrations—is more courageous in breaking the wall of the forbidden with regard to the PLO?

[Al-Hasan] It is the Palestinians who have broken the wall of the forbidden. Clinton, like Bush, acts on the basis of U.S. concepts. Even Bush's election program in 1992 openly said that the Madrid meeting was held in accordance with the Israeli terms. Anyone who read the U.S. letter of assurances to Tel Aviv is fully aware of the absolute bias toward Israel and against the Palestinian people's interests. The same applies to Clinton, who claims to be a neutral partner. It is not only inaccurate, but also untrue, especially as the Democratic Party's election program says "no to a Palestinian state: Jerusalem is Israel's eternal capital, and the peace process is to be conducted in accordance with the Camp David method," not the Camp David stipulations, which—most regrettably—are much better than the stipulations of the agreement signed recently. Even Reagan's 1982 initiative is better than Camp David.

Thus it is clear that the current developments are links in the U.S. chain sympathizing with Israel. Not because the Americans love the Jews. The Americans do not love the Jews in the first place. U.S. history in this connection is known, despite the civil rights laws formulated and endorsed officially. In my view, the question is linked with U.S. interests. [passage omitted]

So Palestinian strugglers have for the first time in their history turned into a broker for U.S. interests. This is stipulated in the fourth appendix attached to the agreement, as it points to the establishment of a fund for

Middle East development which has various tasks, including exploration, prospecting, industrialization, and marketing in the areas of petroleum, petrochemicals, agriculture, and so on. This is in addition to a security system whose axis is Israel. Followed by a U.S. military base to be a pillar for Washington's global policy. It is one of other several pillars.

Thus I say that what is happening now has absolutely nothing to do with the Palestinian issue. It is to do with higher U.S. interests. Proof of this is that Dennis Ross, coordinator of the negotiations and their various tracks, was secretly present at the U.S. Embassy in Oslo throughout the negotiations. And the Norwegian foreign minister frequented the embassy to produce the agreement in the form we know. The danger lies in the appendices, not the agreement itself. Why? The agreement has various aspects and can be interpreted in various ways. But the appendices conflict with the authority of Resolution 242 with regard to Jerusalem, the Palestinian state, and settlements.

[Al-Sa'di] Why seek the impossible? The agreement could be the best of what is possible. And maybe it is a first step to be followed by other steps on a long road and not the end of the road.

[Al-Hasan] I hope the agreement will be a step to be followed by other steps. But the appendices have shackled the Palestinians in a manner that shuts the door in their face in terms of ending the occupation. And according to the clauses of these appendices, especially with regard to security, control is in Israel's hands. External security, for example, is in its hands. What does that mean? I am certain that the Arabs will not fight Israel, nor will Europe. It is the Palestinian fedayeen who fight Israel from outside—that is, in addition to the Lebanese fedayeen. That means that Israel has the right to return with its Army to protect its external security against any national and struggle action, even within Gaza and Jericho. This "right" is consolidated by clauses in the appendices that say that Tel Aviv is responsible for the security of the settlements and the settlers. And that it has the freedom to use the roads in Gaza and Jericho "to achieve its aims." That cannot be called withdrawal, even in international law or the U.S. or British concept, in terms of "ending the occupation." This occupation is staying, even if self-rule includes all the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

[Al-Sa'di] What is the alternative to all this in the light of the big disparity in the balances of power on the ground? Do you not believe that 'Arafat chose this solution because he does not have any cards in his hand? And Arab ranks are in a delicate state and the intifadah is suffocating?

[Al-Hasan] Please allow me to describe that as absurd or tendentious. It is promoted by those who are tired of struggle. They have to replace themselves by their sons. Getting tired of struggle actually means the people's

despair. But the Palestinians have not despaired and their struggle is escalating despite what is happening. [passage omitted]

All we are asking is for 'Arafat to adopt a hard line in order to obtain the minimum in accordance with the Palestine National Council resolutions. I do not think this is an impossible request. If he says "no" now and insists on it, no one is going to slaughter him. Actually we do not want to declare war against the United States, Europe, or Israel. The Arab gun is silent after recent developments. As for the Palestinian gun, it is worthless without an Arab gun. And through the channels of negotiation and diplomacy "the minimum" can be obtained—the minimum represented in the right of return and the right to self-determination and to establish an independent Palestinian entity, even if it joins a confederation with Jordan. This is in addition to dismantling the settlements or putting them under the Palestinian administration's control, in addition to our right to build Palestinian communities on our other occupied territories and the Jerusalem issue.

'Arafat ignored all this. He ignored the refugees and the authority of international Resolution 242. What about the fate of the Palestinians of 1948? Not a single word about them. There are 3 million of them. They have nowhere to go to. Where will the refugees in Lebanon and Syria go? Will settlement be imposed on them? If we wanted settlement, would we not have taken up arms? [passage omitted]

[Al-Sa'di] But the decision was taken by the majority inside the PLO Executive Committee, and 'Arafat and his supporters saw that adopting political realism opens the road to future achievements?

[Al-Hasan] Four members did not attend the meeting, and four resigned—which enabled 'Arafat to monopolize the decision. It was wrong for the four members to resign. Maybe they thought their rejection would change nothing in what had already been written. [passage omitted]

[Al-Sa'di] Your views seem to be very close to the Democratic and Popular Fronts [for the Liberation of Palestine].

[Al-Hasan] That is untrue. The two fronts are pushing the Palestinian scene to armed struggle—which is the most dangerous thing that could happen. I sympathize with people's positions. If a referendum is held, I believe they will reject what is being offered after years of pain, blood, and tears. And I hope Hamas will be wise, and its elements will not use arms against their brothers. Palestinian discipline guarantees success for this agreement. And [infighting] could develop into an internal civil war and also a Palestinian-Jewish war.

[Al-Sa'di] Are we on the eve of a new "shock" for which the Americans are preparing and which could be on the Lebanese-Israeli track or the Syrian-Israeli track?

[Al-Hasan] I believe that President al-Asad is more experienced and intelligent, and the Syrian administration is solid. The Syrian ambassador arrived late in the White House garden after numerous contacts with Damascus. And without doubt, the Syrian president possesses farsightedness and the virtue of patience. And he who is not patient never triumphs. Thus I do not expect him to embark on a new "Gaza-Jericho" step in the Golan.

OPEC Affairs

Oil States Said Moving Closer to Accord on Quotas

AU2809120993 Paris AFP in English 1147 GMT
28 Sep 93

[Excerpt] Geneva, Sept 28 (AFP)—OPEC states moved closer Tuesday [28 September] to a joint production strategy to push up oil prices from a three-year low, with Iran's output quota apparently the main outstanding question.

"We are narrowing the differences," Kuwaiti Oil Minister 'Ali Ahmad al-Baghli said as the 12 OPEC members jockeyed for their share of the 24.5 million barrel daily cap set by the organization Monday.

Saudi Oil Minister Hisham Muhyi-al-Din Nazir, whose country is OPEC's top producer, reported a "very good atmosphere" among all the delegations and said they were working hard for an accord.

"Just be a little patient," Nazir told reporters. [passage omitted]

Talks on Quotas Detailed

AU2809162093 Paris AFP in English 1534 GMT
28 Sep 93

[By Peter Mackler]

[Text] Geneva, Sept 28 (AFP)—OPEC oil ministers struggled Tuesday [28 September] to finalise new, credible production quotas for the 12 member states in a bid to drive up prices from a three-year low.

Delegates said jockeying among key countries was intense as they sought bigger slices of the 24.5 million barrel a day output cap set Monday by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries.

A plenary session to discuss proposed quotas for the fourth quarter was repeatedly postponed. Gabon minister Jean Ping, OPEC's president, said, "I am not sure at all that we will meet tonight."

Ping earlier reported progress in the talks, which focused on demands by Iran and Kuwait for quota hikes. Kuwaiti minister 'Ali Ahmad al-Baghli said, "We are narrowing the differences."

But a negotiating committee apparently ran into snags in trying to balance competing demands for a quota structure that would curb overproduction and lift prices that plunged to 15 dollars a barrel.

A ministerial source, who asked not to be named, said the four negotiators were asking some OPEC states to freeze their ceiling to accommodate raises for other countries.

"You know it's a necessity and we have been successful in convincing some (countries)," the source told reporters on the fourth day of the talks here.

Delegates said Saudi Arabia, OPEC's top producer, appeared resigned to a freeze of its 8 million barrel a day quota, about a third of the group's current output of 24.7 million barrels.

But the Iranians, who are pumping 300,000 barrels a day more than their quota of 3.34 million, have rejected an offer to raise their cap to 3.55 million barrels, delegates said.

Iranian officials said the latest offer was close to their demands. "I do not have much of a problem," said Iranian Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh-Kho'i. "The problem is not Iran."

Kuwait, which left the quota system after spurning a 1.6 million cap set for it in June, said it would go below its actual output of 2.16 million barrels if other states made similar concessions.

But sources close to the Kuwaiti delegation said they wanted to be at the same level as the United Arab Emirates, which refuses to go down from its quota of 2.16 million barrels.

The OPEC ministers set their 24.5 million barrel ceiling after Saudi King Fahd and Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani pledged in a phone call Monday to work together to raise prices.

Riyadh's official news agency SPA reported that it was Saudi Arabia which proposed the final figure, up from the previous official cap of 23.6 million barrels that went unheeded.

But Saudi oil minister Hisham Muhyi-al-Din Nazir said 24.5 million was a "maximum" ceiling and a Gulf source suggested it could end up somewhat lower in the final accord. Other sources said Monday's figure was final.

OPEC officials say that with fourth-quarter demand estimated at 25.5 million barrels a day, a credible output agreement could move prices up by a dollar or two.

But analysts said OPEC now had to come up with a quota agreement that was credible for world markets, reintegrated Kuwait into the system and kept Iran within the fold.

Nazir expressed optimism for an eventual accord. "There is a very good atmosphere of cooperation

between Iran and Saudi Arabia and all the others," he said. "All of us are trying very hard."

Meanwhile Nigeria, which is pumping 120,000 barrels more than its quota of 1.78 million, sought to make its output level of 1.9 million barrels official.

Delegates said Venezuela and perhaps some other states might also get adjustments.

Plenary Session Postponed

AU2809164193 Paris AFP in English 1619 GMT
28 Sep 93

[Text] Geneva, Sept 28 (AFP)—OPEC oil ministers struggling to reach agreement on new output quotas Tuesday [28 September] postponed a scheduled plenary session until Wednesday, OPEC sources said.

The sources said the meeting would be held at noon (1100 GMT) after a new round of consultations among the 12 members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries.

Saudis Said Ready To Freeze Production

AU2909095393 Paris AFP in English 0949 GMT
29 Sep 93

[Text] Geneva, Sept 29 (AFP)—Saudi Arabia is ready to freeze its current oil production at eight million barrels a day as part of an OPEC accord, Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh-Kho'i said Wednesday [29 September].

He reported the Saudi position after announcing that Iran, which currently pumps 300,000 barrels a day over its official allocation of 3.34 million, would accept a 3.6 million barrel quota.

Commentary Praises Latest Production Ceiling

NC2809081493 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0445 GMT
28 Sep 93

[Unattributed commentary from the "In the Margin of the News" feature]

[Text] After several days of discussion on the production ceiling and oil prices, the OPEC petroleum ministers finally reached an agreement and set the new production ceiling of 24.5 million barrels a day for the fourth quarter of the current Christian year. In theory, the new ceiling is 900,000 barrels more than before, but is almost equal to OPEC's true production during the past few months; some OPEC members violated the ceiling.

Now that the new ceiling has been determined, the question is: Will the rise affect oil prices, which have recorded an unprecedented fall during the past three years? Economic experts believe that if the new ceiling is respected by the OPEC members, oil prices will improve in the world market.

OPEC's new production ceiling is little different from OPEC's real production during the past few months. By legalizing the increased production by some members, OPEC is trying to create a discipline. If the member countries don't violate the new ceiling, oil supplies in the world market will be the same as in the past. And this comes when oil demand during the winter months increases by between 1 to 2 million barrels a day.

Understanding and accord among OPEC members in improving oil prices are extremely significant; world oil prices have always been affected by the agreement or disagreement among OPEC members on oil issues. The telephone conversation our respected President Hashemi-Rafsanjani had with Saudi King Fahd yesterday, which aimed to create and increase this understanding, especially among the largest oil producers in OPEC, was very effective.

Iranian-Saudi understanding on oil is important for two reasons: First, it will offer a solution to the fair distribution of the 900,000 barrels that have been added to OPEC's production ceiling; that is on the agenda of today's session in Geneva. Second, discipline will be created among OPEC members in terms of respect for their production ceilings.

Past experience has shown that when major oil producers agree on production, the less the minor oil producers violate their production ceilings; this can improve oil prices and yield benefits for all oil producers.

Algeria

'Terrorists' Using 'New Strategy' of Arson

LD2809211793 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Text] As we have said in our previous news bulletins, the serious deterioration of the situation has taken the form of all-out destruction operations against the country's enterprises and economy. The security services have identified members of the terrorist group which set fire to the Telagh electronic plant on 26 September.

Assassinations are now not enough to satisfy the rancor of the terrorists, and they have nothing other than fire to use as a new strategy in an attempt to carry out their aggressive schemes. Schools, truck garages, and workers' plants have been destroyed by fire in a few minutes in several regions of the homeland. Eucalyptus, Boufarik, and (Gouraya) carry the traces of crime, crime aimed in the first place at pupils who lost their school desks and workers who lost their jobs. The logic of terrorism has sought this. It has added hundreds of workers to the unemployment lines. More still: The fire of anarchy was aimed at a plant that had cost the country more than 400 million dinars; the Telagh plant is the source of income for about 600 families. It was completely destroyed.

A group of those who committed this crime has been identified by the security services: Akkal Mustapha, born in Telagh in 1970, unemployed, he was in Afghanistan for one year, and is accused of a number of terrorist acts; Jeriri Tayeb, born in 1963 in (Lamtar), governorate of Sidi Bel Abbes, he was in Afghanistan for 18 months, and is accused of a number of acts of terrorism in Bel Abbes, Oran, and Saida; and Kada Ben Chiha Larbi, born in Ain Temouchent in 1964, he was in Afghanistan for 14 months, is implicated in a number of acts of terrorism, and is the commander of a unit that called itself the unified unit for Jihad.

Prime Minister on Arson Wave

LD2909000393 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Excerpts] Following the new course adopted by terrorism, as represented in the destruction of the economy, the effect of which is to push hundreds of workers into unemployment and thousands of students on to the streets, Algerian television asked Prime Minister Redha Malek to comment.

[Begin recording] [correspondent] Prime Minister, the country these days is witnessing dangerous developments in the acts of terrorism, as particularly represented by what has recently taken place in Sidi Bel Abbes. Prime Minister, what is your comment on this issue?

[Malek] No doubt you have read in the newspapers, as everyone has, that the Telagh electronic factory near the city of Sidi Bel Abbes was set fire to on the night of 26 September.

First, do you know what this factory is, what it produces, how many workers it employs, and how much it has cost the state and the Algerian people? This factory produces 130,000 television sets a year at present, and 10,000 stereos, and as you know, it employs 525 workers—that is, 600 families have been without an income since last Sunday. The cost of this factory reached 20 billion centimes in 1986; i.e. in today's money, 2 billion dinars. This factory was not the first to be set on fire. It is a link in the chain of arson, sabotage, and destruction of the industrial, educational, agricultural, and social institutions. I ask: Who is the beneficiary of this destruction? Are these factories and the different enterprises which have been destroyed the property of the Algerian people, or the property of whom? Those who work in these enterprises, who are they? Are they Algerians, or not? [passage omitted]

It is the Algerian people who built these enterprises with huge sacrifices for the creation of an economy, a modern industrialized state, and a prosperous society.

You know, as everyone knows, that our country is living through stifling crises—economic, social, cultural, and political—and the people are suffering shortages of essential daily goods and high prices. The state is attempting by all means to maintain the dignity of the homeland and the citizen and to build a country which is respected by others. We import almost all the resources, foodstuffs, and so on from outside at high costs.

How could the state fulfill all the needs of the citizens in terms of food, clothing, housing, work, education, health, and various modern equipment, and search day and night for foreign loans in order to maintain a minimum of equilibrium, stability, and security, and still pay—we must not forget—over threequarters of its revenue toward debts? How can this be done, if this state of destruction of the Algerian people's enterprises and properties continues? [passage omitted] [end recording]

Author Killed by 'Terrorists' Outside Home

LD2809214393 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Excerpt] (Abdelrahman Chergou), a veteran and author, was assassinated in cold blood this morning by terrorists opposite his home in Mohammadia, Algiers Province. [passage omitted]

Security Services Reportedly Kill 3 'Terrorists'

LD2809214693 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Text] It has been learned from the security services that, on the basis of information, the security services succeeded in killing three terrorists during the night of 27-28 September in Ait Yahia Draa El Mizane. They recovered three hunting rifles and cartridges stolen from citizens.

Morocco Hands Over Armed Islamic Movement Leader

LD2809213693 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Text] A statement by the public prosecution at Algiers judicial council announced that the Moroccan Government has handed over the Algerian citizen (El Aiada Abdelhak) to the Algerian authorities in accordance with the Algerian-Moroccan judicial agreement.

(El Aiada Abdelhak) is accused of crimes of infringing on state security, and premeditated murder. The accused will be referred to the court to be tried in accordance with the law.

(El Aiada Abdelhak), nicknamed Abu Adlan, is one of the Armed Islamic Movement leaders, and was a deputy to Allel Mohamed, known as Mouhlevier. After the security services had eliminated the latter, the former appointed himself leader of the armed terrorist groups, and he is accused of carrying out numerous criminal acts in Blida and Algiers provinces—among which is the (Bouzrina) operation—and he also ordered the assassination of the journalist-author Taher Djaoud.

Egypt**Mubarak on Peace Process, Domestic Concerns**

NC2809185893 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1630 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Text] Washington, 28 Sep (MENA)—President Hosni Mubarak has praised Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad as an excellent man who sincerely wants to achieve peace.

Mubarak made these remarks in an interview with the U.S. PBS Television Network [as published] carried today in which he discussed current Middle East developments and progress in the peace process.

Mubarak was asked about President Hafiz al-Asad's occasional statements that Israel seeks peace for the sake of peace, not for land, and that Israel is receiving everything while the Arabs are getting nothing. President Mubarak replied: Sometimes you see heads of state everywhere—I am not talking about Hafiz al-Asad or Yitzhak Rabin—make statements for local consumption. Sometimes we do not have to deal with some of the problems that face us that have not taken shape. Sometimes you cannot experience a problem and solve it in a very short time, a measure that might shock the nation. Therefore, you ought to handle it gradually. My understanding of President al-Asad is that he is sincere in his support of the peace process.

Mubarak was asked whether he believes that President al-Asad is willing, as he says, to begin full diplomatic relations and establish relatively free borders with Israel. He answered U.S. television correspondent Charlene Hunter: I can tell you that he fully realizes this and that he is eager to do that. However, making this public

quickly to a nation not used to such diplomatic relations with Israel requires preparing the nation to erase 40 years of hatred against Israel so that this nation can accept the new situation.

Asked whether he has encouraged the Syrian president to move more quickly or if he thinks that the Syrian president is doing what is right according to his policies, Mubarak said: We have encouraged him to move more quickly. Truly, the man has a sincere intention, and I believe he is moving in the right direction.

President Mubarak expressed his belief that if the Israelis do not make a move to seize the current momentum in the peace process, there will be an enormous problem at the regional level and even with the Palestinians. He said: In order to continue to solve the Palestinian problem we must conclude the peace process with the Syrians, otherwise we will still have a long road ahead of us following the accord signing in Washington.

On the U.S. role in the Syrian-Israeli track, the president said: The United States has a very important role, and we regard the United States as a full partner in the peace process. Without the help of the United States, I do not believe that a comprehensive settlement in the region is possible. Therefore, I believe that the United States should urge the Syrians and persuade the Israelis to pursue negotiations and to put an end to the existing problem between Israel and Syria.

Asked if removing Syria from the list of countries that support terrorism would help the Syrian president proceed with the peace process with greater flexibility, President Mubarak said he believes that this is an issue that must be discussed by the United States and Syria. He added that if an agreement is reached over the Golan issue, the United States must reconsider its position that Syria supports terrorism.

Answering a question about his proposal for a gradual Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights over a period of four months and whether he thinks the United States should help bring about such a settlement, President Mubarak said the United States must proceed along these lines.

He added: I believe that stationing multinational forces on the Golan Heights, along the lines of what happened on the Egyptian front, will make the Syrians and Israelis feel secure.

Asked if such forces will form a buffer zone between the two countries, the president said: Yes, a buffer zone just like the one between Egypt and Israel.

Asked for his assessment of the magnitude of the hard-line movements such as Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], Hizballah, and other pro-Iran groups, President Mubarak replied: In Iran they are saying that untold millions are waiting to be spent on terrorist

activities. Iran is urging the so-called Islamist movements to provoke a crisis in the region. There is no doubt that Iran is behind all of this.

Commenting on whether these groups are actually able to provoke such a regional crisis, the president said: No. They are trying to do it, but I do not think that they will succeed.

Regarding what might happen if the peace process overshadows the terrorism phenomenon and the PLO obtains concrete benefits in Gaza and Jericho, President Mubarak said: The most important thing is that the people feel that what has happened has raised their living standards, that the economy is improving, and that they are getting assistance in rebuilding their region's infrastructure. They must feel that something tangible is happening to them after they accepted the agreement.

Concerning aid to Egypt and whether there is concern that such aid will be diverted to the Palestinians at Egypt's expense, President Mubarak said he believes that the United States must not reduce the aid to Egypt while it fulfills its commitment to finance the Palestinians' infrastructure projects. He said this aid is very important, declaring: We are in a period of transition between two economic reform programs. These reforms require two or three years. For this reason I believe that U.S. aid to Egypt must remain at its present level. I am not asking that this aid go on forever; I know it is impossible. But I am asking that the aid continue until these economic reforms are completed and we are on a sound economic track. I believe that we need this aid for several important reasons. The most important one is that stability in this part of the world is not possible without Egypt.

Asked why, President Mubarak said: Egypt is the largest country in this region and has a great deal of influence. Therefore, it must enjoy a special economic status. Without this there will be no stability. I do not think it is in the interest of the West or the United States to have instability in Egypt. Peace is impossible without Egypt and so is war. Therefore, the continued flow of this aid will help Egypt continue its progress toward economic reform.

Concerning the claims made by some U.S. analysts that Egypt is on the verge of collapse like Lebanon in 1973 and that it is no longer a Middle Eastern stronghold, President Mubarak said that Egypt is in good condition, adding: We confronted numerous difficulties over the past five years, but we are pressing ahead with economic reform. We are dealing sternly and firmly with this country's terrorist groups but we always act within the law. I do not think Egypt is on the verge of collapse at all.

Asked to comment on Amnesty International's claim that the regime's opponents are subjected to torture and that they are detained and tried before military courts even though they are civilians, President Mubarak replied: I must place the entire affair before a military court to finish it as quickly as possible because ordinary courts have too many cases and will take a very long time, which would only complicate matters further.

Asked if this is just, President Mubarak declared: We are not breaking the law or the Constitution under any circumstances.

In answer to the U.S. television network's question about the future of democracy in Egypt during his third presidential term, President Mubarak said: We are eager to have democracy. Although the democratic experiment in Egypt is 12 or 14 years old, do not expect us to have full democracy overnight. It is something for our future generations. I would like to tell you that if the West tries to push Western-style democracy too fast in Third World countries, which are not used to it, there will be a negative reaction that might lead to dictatorship.

The president gave an example of this, saying that some groups will exploit the democratic climate to overthrow the current regimes and seize power. He said this poses a very great threat and explained that we must introduce democracy gradually so that the people can understand it and absorb every step toward establishing it.

Brotherhood Figure Puts Questions to 'Arafat

NC2909102193 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 21 Sep 93 p 5

[Article by Mustafa Mashhur, deputy general guide of the Muslim Brotherhood]

[Text] Mr. Yasir 'Arafat has sent a letter to his eminence the Muslim Brotherhood's general guide, blaming him for issuing the statement in which the Brotherhood opposed the Gaza-Jericho agreement before waiting to learn the facts from him. 'Arafat began his letter with the Koranic verse: "O ye who believe, if a wicked person comes to you with any news, ascertain the truth, lest ye harm people unwittingly, and afterwards become full of repentance for what ye have done."

While we are not accusing the media from which we learned of the agreement and its details of wickedness, it is our legitimate duty to ascertain, and call on all people to ascertain the truth with us, so that it might not remain obscure and they might not remain under the influence of this great brouhaha, which was artificially played out in the United States over this agreement which reminds us of the story of the wolf and the lamb.

First of all we notice that the Madrid conference, initiated for the purpose of guaranteeing the Zionist enemy's security, came in the wake of the Gulf crisis, during which it appeared as if the United States and the West were doing the Arab countries, particularly the Gulf states, a favor by defeating Saddam. The negotiations were public and were going around in circles. Consequently, numerous clandestine meetings began and we were surprised when this agreement was announced at a time when recriminations and resignations had almost blown the PLO apart. The announcement was accompanied by a tremendous media uproar portraying the agreement as a historic and unprecedented victory.

- Let us now begin the questions in order to ascertain

the truth. The media published three letters, two sent by Mr. Yasir 'Arafat to Yitzhaq Rabin and the Norwegian foreign minister, and a third sent by Yitzhaq Rabin to Mr. Yasir 'Arafat. They also published the agreement's annexes.

Is it true that there has been recognition and an acknowledgement of the Jewish people's right to Palestine as a homeland in addition to the Jews' right to emigrate to Palestine from all over the world, and reside and settle in it?

Has the PLO chairman recognized the Zionist enemy's state with known borders or in line with its expansionist policy that seeks a state from the Nile to the Euphrates?

Has the enemy acknowledged the PLO's right to any part of the land or was it merely a recognition enabling the PLO to establish a temporary and limited administration that will organize the affairs of some Palestinians who reside on part of the land under enemy control?

Is it true that it has been agreed that the Palestinian police will prevent hostilities against the enemy, both political and military, that the PLO will eliminate the organizations that are hostile to the Zionist enemy, and that it will defend the enemy and its citizens against any mujahidin attacks?

If the above item is true, is it possible for any Palestinian, Arab, or Muslim to accept the fact that the PLO's task should be changed from seeking to liberate Palestine from the enemy and from the river to the sea, to defending the enemy? And is it possible to accept the fact that the PLO has turned into something similar to [Antoine] Lahd's [South] Lebanese Army, which cooperates with the enemy and defends it in the border security zone?

Does the agreement prevent the enemy from building new settlements even in Gaza and Jericho, bearing in mind that it was supposed to remove even the existing ones?

Will the Palestinian self-administration have the right to communicate with other countries or will it have to do that via the enemy's Foreign Ministry and through the enemy's embassies and some Palestinian employees in them? Will the existing Palestinian embassies be abolished?

Are the reports true that say that the Palestinian government will be administrative only, not political, and that it will have no right to issue Palestinian currency or independent Palestinian passports and that the passports that will be used will be Israeli passports that will contain a notation that the holder's nationality is Palestinian, including the members of the self-government themselves?

Will the self-administration have the right to demand the repatriation of the Palestinian refugees dispersed in the Arab countries since the 1940's or will the enemy deprive it of this right?

Will the self-administration have its own army to defend its borders or will it be the enemy's army who will defend these borders?

Will the enemy permit the Palestinians living under the self-government to possess firearms or explosives, or not? Will the Palestinian police receive their weapons from the enemy's Interior Ministry according to Israeli domestic regulations, thus demonstrating that we have surrendered and thrown down our weapons?

Will the self-government have the right to exercise control over the Gaza and Jericho points of entry and exit or will it be the enemy who controls these points, approving or denying entry and exit to travelers?

Will thousands of Palestinians remain in enemy jails or will they all be released?

Is it true that an agreement has been concluded with the PLO or the self-government by which it pledged to hand over to the enemy's security services the names of Palestinian religious groups and other opponents of the peace agreement and information about the places where they store their weapons? If this is true, what description fits this conduct?

Is it true that the interim self-administration's budget will be part of the budget that the enemy government will allocate for developing the self-rule area? Is it true that the self-administration does not have the right to receive official financial aid except via the enemy's government and that such aid must be deposited in the enemy's general budget?

Is it true that the official currency in the enemy's entity and the self-government area will be the Israeli shekel and that the PLO will have no right to issue independent Palestinian currency?

Is it true that the self-administration has no right to export and import goods except via the enemy's trade ministry and that when it carries out such transactions it must not do so unilaterally?

Is it true that the enemy will use the Palestinians of the self-government to market Israeli goods and products in the Arab countries and to encourage studying at Israeli universities and participation in foreign Israeli ventures?

Is what we heard true, that the Palestinians and Israelis will devote their joint media to combating fundamentalists and terrorists in Israel and the Arab countries and also to combating the peace operation's opponents?

Will the self-administration's media, newspapers, radio, and television be subject to Israeli information guidelines or will they be independent?

Is it true that the Palestinian self-administration will have no right to intervene in Israel's domestic and foreign political affairs, although Israel will supervise the self-government's corresponding affairs?

Is it true that the self-administration will have no right to create ministries, official departments, a guard of honor, and enjoy other trappings of an independent state, including issuing invitations to heads of state and kings?

Is it also true that the Israeli flag will fly alongside the Palestinian flag above official Palestinian departments?

Is it true that agreement has been reached that the enemy government will have the right to supervise and audit the self-government's work?

Does the agreement give the enemy government the right to bar Palestinians born in Gaza, Jericho, or the Judeaea and Samaria areas who currently reside outside the Zionist entity from returning to their homes? Is true that the Palestinians living in camps in the autonomy area will not be allowed to return to their original places of residence?

Does the agreement prevent any Palestinian intervention in or opposition to the process of Jewish immigration to Israel and is agreement being discussed with the interim government to build settlements for these immigrants in the autonomy area?

Is it true that agreement has been reached that the enemy army will have the right to conduct defense, security, and deployment operations in the autonomy area and neighboring Arab areas without informing the self-government of such actions?

Has it been set as a condition that in case a state of military, political, or media belligerency arises between the enemy and a neighboring Arab country with whom the enemy has or does not have a peace treaty, the Palestinians in the autonomy areas will have no right to intervene or become hostile to the enemy as a result of such a turn of events?

Can we get correct and accurate answers from the PLO and its chairman to these questions that concern every Palestinian, Arab, and Muslim? Also, it is known that the PLO has abolished from its covenant everything that is hostile to the enemy such as war, destruction, or evacuation from the river to the sea, something which contravenes the PLO's very name, which denotes the liberation of Palestine.

We remind the PLO and all those who rejoice in this agreement that the cause of Palestine is not theirs alone to do with as they like. It is the cause of all Muslims and Islam does not concede to the usurper an inch of its land, especially when it comes to Palestine and al-Aqsa Mosque.

We also warn against any Palestinian infighting because this is what the enemy wants. Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] has asserted that it will not aim its rifle against a Palestinian, but against the enemy.

The citizens' basic legitimate right is to resist the usurping enemy. It is bizarre and unacceptable for them to defend his security and strike those who resist him. Indeed, it is a calamity.

We are asking the PLO and its chairman to answer these questions yes or no. If we do not get clear answers, then our misgivings will be true and we will have the right to oppose the agreement and regard it as a sell-out of the

Palestinian cause in return for nothing or for a few coins. We will also regard it as joining in the sowing of sedition among the Palestinians to weaken them and enable the enemy to control the land and the people.

We have seen how some Arab governments are eager to establish diplomatic ties with the enemy as a prelude to establishing a Middle East market over which the enemy will have hegemony. This issue, however, will be the subject of another article.

Interior Minister Appoints Senior Police Officers

NC2909093193 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic
23 Sep 93 p 4

[Report by Muhammad Sarah al-Zahhar]

[Text] Interior Minister Major General Hasan al-Alfi yesterday issued an order appointing a number of senior police officers. The appointments included new chiefs for the state security investigations, public security, and tourism and tourist sites authority. The appointments also included creation of a new position to be occupied by the assistant minister for border posts. He will also take on supervision of the passports department, port security, and the Cairo and Alexandria ports police.

The new appointments are as follows: Major General 'Abd-al-Wahid Isma'il 'Abd-al-'Al, first assistant to the minister for border posts; Major General Mustafa 'Abd-al-Nadir, assistant minister for economic security; Major General Ahmad al-'Dali, assistant minister for the state security investigations' sector; Major General Ahmad Hammam 'Atiyah, chief of the transportation police; Major General Nassau Zahir, chief of public security; and Major General Ahmad al- Sadie Halawah, chief of the public administration of tourism and touristic sites police.

The new appointments went into effect yesterday.

Fundamentalists Suspected in Killing of Policeman

NC2809210793 Paris AFP in English 1956 GMT
28 Sep 93

[Text] Asyut, Egypt, Sept 28 (AFP)—Gunmen suspected of being Muslim fundamentalists shot and killed a policeman on Tuesday [28 September] and wounded another in the southern Egyptian town of Dayrut near here, police said.

The policemen were on guard duty outside the town's Anglican church when gunmen attacked them before fleeing.

At the same time assailants attacked a police patrol in another part of Dayrut, trading gunfire with the officers for 10 minutes before escaping.

Police said Muslim fundamentalists who want to overthrow Egypt's secular government and set up an Iranian-style Islamic republic were suspected of being behind the attacks.

The al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah fundamentalist group, which launched a violent campaign against the government in March 1992, has claimed responsibility for several deadly attacks on members of the security forces this month in southern Egypt.

More than 200 people have been killed in the last 18 months.

Asyut, 400 kilometers (248 miles) south of Cairo, is a fundamentalist stronghold.

Unknown Assailant Fires at Police Officer in Idfu

NC2809073293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2301 GMT
27 Sep 93

[Text] Cairo, 27 Sep (MENA)—An unknown assailant fired several shots tonight at a truck driven by Captain Ahmad Nada, an officer with the Idfu Supplies Intelligence Service of the Aswan Governorate. Nada was heading to his office in Idfu. He was not hurt and fired back at the assailant. Two men were wounded in the exchange of fire, according to a security source.

Army recruit 'Ali 'Abd-al-Fattah, who was riding in the back of the truck, was hit in his left shoulder. Muhammad Mustafa 'Abd-al-'Ati, a citizen who was in a nearby sugar cane plantation, received a bullet wound to his right shoulder.

The assailant fled into the plantations. Police have surrounded the area and are searching for the culprit. The General Prosecution Office is investigating.

Coptic Police Doctor Gunned Down in South

NC2409065793 Paris AFP in English 0026 GMT
24 Sep 93

[Text] Asyut, Egypt, Sept 24 (AFP)—Gunmen on Thursday [23 September] killed a Coptic Christian police doctor near here, official sources reported, adding that the attack appeared to have been the work of Moslem fundamentalists.

They said Colonel Nabil Khalil Jayyid, director of the Asyut prison hospital in southern Egypt, was attacked by unknown assailants as he headed for his wife's pharmacy near the town of Manfalut, 356 kilometers (221 miles) south of Cairo.

His attackers managed to escape.

Jayyid's death brings to 55 the number of police officers killed since March 1992, when friction intensified between Islamic militants and security forces.

In the same period, according to a toll compiled by AFP, 35 Coptic civilians, 71 fundamentalists, 35 Moslem civilians and three foreign tourists have died in the violence.

Church Sentries Attacked in Upper Egypt; 1 Killed

NC2809214493 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2122 GMT
28 Sep 93

[Text] Asyut, 28 Sep (MENA)—A sentry guarding the Anglican Church in Dayrut, Asyut Governorate, was killed and another wounded when unknown assailants on a motorcycle opened fire on them this evening.

Major General Majdi Basyuni, assistant interior minister and Asyut's security director, left for the site of the attack, which has been cordoned off by the security forces.

The Dayrut Prosecutor's Office has begun an investigation and has ordered forensic experts to examine the scene of the attack and the bullet casings to determine the type of weapon used in the crime.

Argentine Official: Work on Nuclear Reactor Started

NC2809172893 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1437 GMT
28 Sep 93

[Excerpts] Cairo, 28 Sep (MENA)—(Martin Ramekondo), economic and trade adviser to the Argentine Embassy in Cairo, has affirmed the growing cooperation between Egypt and Argentina in all spheres, especially in nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

In a statement to MENA, he said that the project of building a nuclear reactor in Inshas City, which has suffered difficulties in the past, has actually begun within the framework of scientific cooperation between the two countries.

He remarked that the promotion of cooperation between Egypt and Argentina is a political decision made by the two countries' leadership and it consolidates the south-south cooperation. [passage omitted]

He noted that the volume of trade between the two countries has reached \$120 million per year, which is basically represented in the export of sunflower oil to Egypt. He said his country is in the process of purchasing perfume flowers and medical herbs to offset the trade balance between the two countries.

Libya

Editor Views Clinton's General Assembly Address

LD2909005693 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1930 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Excerpts] The political editor of JANA has commented on U.S. President Bill Clinton's address yesterday to the

UN General Assembly, particularly in so far as it concerned the issues of justice and the curbing of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. The editor said that appealing to justice conforms with the principles held by the Great Jamahiriya in resolving differences through the language imposed by the era, which is the language of dialogue and negotiation, and giving priority to the interests of peoples and respecting their national sovereignty. However, the pressing question is: What kind of justice do we want? Is it a neutral justice, based on international laws and conventions and the principles on which the UN Charter was built in resolving disputes peacefully by dialogue and negotiation between states, and on which peoples can depend and find reassurance? Or is it a justice in which the enemy is the arbiter and it is driven by purely political objectives?

Regarding President Clinton's call for the curbing of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, this, too, conforms with what the Great Jamahiriya has been calling for repeatedly, welcoming any endeavor to end the arms race and stripping the globe of mass-destruction and assault weapons. In its civilized historic plan submitted to the UN in January 1992 to resolve a host of problems and issues concerning humanity, the Great Jamahiriya stressed that possessing these weapons and using threats with them constitutes a serious kind of terror to humanity as a whole, including those who possess it [as heard]. [passage omitted]

The editor added: While welcoming any step in this direction, we stress that the realization, consolidation, and universalization of security and peace requires getting rid of the language of threats of force, embargo, and starvation in dealings among states. Instead, arbitration should be sought in logic and dialogue which will serve the interests of peoples on bases decided by international conventions and charters, and which are in harmony with their national sovereignty.

Al-Bishari: Solution To Crisis With West Sought

*LD2809134193 Rabat MAP in English 1231 GMT
28 Sep 93*

[Text] Cairo, Sep. 28 (MAP)—Libya is still seeking a peaceful and legal solution to the crisis that opposes it to three western countries, said Monday [27 September] Libyan delegate to the UN Ibrahim al-Bishari. In a statement he made in Cairo before leaving for Amman, the Libyan diplomat insisted Libya will not yield to the method of 'swindling and threats' and also rejects confrontation with anyone.

We are living in a civilized world that understands the language of dialog and we will use the diplomatic channels to settle the problem, he added. On Libyan efforts to solve the crisis, he said his country is undertaking, through the Arab League ad-hoc seven member committee, a large scale action to explain its position on the issue by sending messages to member countries of the UN Security Council.

He added that the Arab League Secretary General 'Isamat 'Abd-al-Majid will examine in New York with UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali best means to settle the crisis which has become, he said, a dangerous thorn hindering the Arab world efforts in the mideast peace process as well as development efforts and relations between Arab countries and European ones.

Jordanian Ambassador Makes Statement on Sanctions

*LD2809221793 Tripoli JANA in English 1433 GMT
28 Sep 93*

[Text] Tripoli, al-Fatih [September] 28, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Hisham al-Muhaysin, the Jordanian ambassador to Libya, called for the lifting of sanctions, imposed through the unwarranted Resolution 748.

In a statement to 'AL-JAMAHIRIYAH' the ambassador expressed his dismay at reports in the Arab press indicating that Arab officials are calling for a lifting of the boycott against the Zionist while [word indistinct] with the sanctions imposed on Libya.

Such calls should have been directed to the lifting of the unfair sanctions.

The ambassador also praised Libya's enlightened handling of the crisis with Western states.

He concluded his statement by saying that whatever insult and subjugation is faced by the Arab nation is caused by the absence of Arab unity the basis for solving all Arab problems.

Morocco

Filali Addresses UN on International Issues

*LD2809134893 Rabat MAP in English 1245 GMT
28 Sep 93*

[Text] New York, Sept. 28 (MAP)—Moroccan Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Abdellatif Filali Monday [27 September] deplored the absence of a genuine dialog between the North and the South to remedy the blatant unbalance between the two groups which made that sub-Saharan Africa detains only 1pc of world production while developed countries which only host 15 pc of the world population share 80 pc of world wealth. [sentence as received]

In an address he made before the 48th UN General Assembly and wherein he surveyed Morocco's foreign policy and stands on various international outstanding issues, Filali said that the international economic debate remains centered on the problems and concerns of the North and that the Third World's role in international economy management is increasingly reduced.

Filali warned that efforts to maintain international peace and security and settle disputes would be futile as long as

the socio-economic unbalance is increasing. Rich countries, he said, should open their markets, increase their investments in developing countries, alleviate the debt burdens and increase technology transfer. He warned the economic and social situation in the southern hemisphere could threaten security, stability and development in the north.

Filali deplored that the Group of Seven had turned down the request of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) member countries to have the NAM chairman, President Suharto of Indonesia, attend their summit last July in Tokyo to expound the NAM viewpoints on the impact of the current world economy management on NAM countries' development policies.

It is most imperative to augur a new era in international relations based on a genuine partnership and on a shared responsibility, Filali argued.

The foreign minister then underlined the efforts made by Morocco to assist African countries and recalled in this respect that the kingdom had decided to cancel the debts of African countries and is determined to carry on its assistance to these countries in matters of health, education and training. Over 90 pc of the budget allotted to international cooperation go to African states, Filali said.

After he underlined that Morocco firmly believes in the universal character and comprehensive nature of human rights and deems these rights as one of the bases of any government system in any country since they secure social justice and individual freedoms, Filali said human rights must however be attuned to the values, cultural specificities, traditions and levels of development of different states. The political aspect of human rights should not prevail over the social and economic dimensions which cover such basic needs as food, health care and shelter.

Dealing with the Bosnia-Herzegovina issue, Filali said Morocco vehemently condemns the Serbian aggression meant to dismember Bosnia-Herzegovina and deeply deplores the inertia of the international community and the UN inability to apply and have respected the UN Charter and international law principles.

As to the situation in Somalia, Filali said the settlement of the Somali crisis lies in carrying on negotiations and dialog between all the Somali sides with the UN assistance to reach a genuine national reconciliation liable to secure to the Somali people peace, security and prosperity.

Filali also hailed the creation last week of a transition executive council in South Africa as an additional stride on the path of dialog and concertation and said Morocco backs the call launched by chairman of the African National Congress Nelson Mandela for lifting economic sanctions against his country. This measure will contribute to alleviate the economic burden weighing on the South African people, promote the settlement of internal

and international pending problems and give a new momentum to the settlement process, Filali said.

Dealing with the evolution of the situation in the Middle East, Filali said Morocco deems the way towards a lasting, fair and comprehensive peace in the Middle East is long and arduous and requires much patience and perseverance.

A genuine settlement of the Middle East problems is not possible unless the peace dynamics reaches its logical outcome, in line with the wish of all the peoples of the region, he said before stressing the need to join efforts and associate all good will to reach a comprehensive peace accepted by all and guaranteeing the restoration of all the Palestinian people's rights including the right to self rule and to the establishment of an independent state with Jerusalem as its capital as well as the withdrawal of Israel from all the occupied Arab territories in Syria, Lebanon and Jordan.

The Moroccan official then tackled the Maghreb sub-region renewing Morocco's attachment to the principles that dictated the setting up of the Arab Maghreb Union (UMA) and determination to endeavor to reach the union goals.

Sudan

U.S. Participation in UN Operations Evaluated

EA2709230793 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in English 0430 GMT 27 Sep 93

[Interview with Adam Najib Qamar-al-Din, editor of AL-SUDAN AL-HADITH, and historian Hasan Makki by unidentified announcer; place and date not given—live]

[Text] [Announcer] Dear listeners, God's peace, mercy and blessings be upon you all. We welcome you to a new series: a commentary on a report. The report concerns comments made last Friday [24 September] by a spokeswoman from the American White House about an American decision. The decision made was that the United States would not participate in any future international military operations unless the objectives of the operation and its duration had been defined; an agreement had been reached between the disputing parties in the area concerning the entry of international forces; and a cease fire had been declared. This was the report on which the commentary is based. The report seems to imply an important and pivotal decision, perhaps indicating America's review or withdrawal from some areas of its foreign policy. Can this decision be regarded as a withdrawal?

[Qamar-al-Din] No, this is not a withdrawal from American policy. In reality, American policy is based on violence. American policy is based fundamentally on violence and on external intervention. America has a long history of external intervention. America and Israel have expanded in this area—they have made violence their shari'ah. They have intervened many times. There

have been military interventions, economic interventions, security interventions and media interventions.

Sometimes there was consultation about the method of intervention. But as it is, there is nothing surprising about American policy. It is built on a particular strategy. It is implemented in accordance with the unanimity of almost all governing bodies in spite of there being different political parties. This decision has nothing at all to do with an American withdrawal.

[Announcer] That was Mr. Adam Najib Qamar-al-Din, editor in chief of the newspaper AL-SUDAN AL-HADITHI. He has given us an evaluation of the decision. Why did the U.S. administration resort to adopting such a decision? We put this question to Islamic theoretician Dr. Hasan Makki. He replied:

[Makki] This decision seems to have two parts. One part concerns the events in Somalia. The U.S. administration is now in a real trap. [Words indistinct] about 60 deaths and demonstrations similar to what is happening in the West Bank—that is, the intifadah. They also carry out fedayeen-style operations against the UN Forces [word indistinct] and dead. The U.S. Forces are now trapped and have been compelled to seek the assistance of American special forces. American special forces operated in Vietnam. Now American special forces are operating outside the (?jurisdiction) of the UN. They have more than 100 helicopters. But the Somalis are laughing at them. Apparently the Somalis have penetrated the American security and information systems.

Thus, all special operations carried out so far have been farcical and ridiculous. [Words indistinct] and the special forces came to arrest them and the UN held them. The second time they arrested ordinary people of no military significance. This caused a lot of reaction by international organizations and other groups in Somalia. The second part is—and this is the more important matter—the United States has found itself in a state of war in Somalia.

[Announcer] Therefore the UN operation in Somalia, in which the United States has assumed a combat role, is the principal reason for adopting this decision?

[Makki] Certainly we must take this point into consideration. What are the real motives behind America's original intervention and its enthusiasm for its current role in Somalia? We go back to Mr Najib Qamar-al-Din:

[Qamar-al-Din] The objective of American intervention in Somalia has not been made clear to the American public. The reality is that it was an intervention to stop a possible threat against American interests: It was not to stop a direct threat to American interests. The possible danger comes in the form of the rising Islamic tide throughout the world. This is not a direct threat. It is a possible threat, because the Islamic tide might cause changes in the region's political map. Changes to the political map may throw their shadow on regional political decisions and so pose a threat to American interests.

Commentary Views U.S. Role, 'Losses' in Somalia

EA2809105093 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [passage omitted] Sudan has cut the insolent embassies down to size. It has restored life, the laws, education and the media to the course of God and has foiled the plots of the agents. It has completed its readiness to give lessons in sacrifice should anyone try to be arrogant towards it or try to violate its territory or the sacred things of its faith. It pays no heed to their display of material strength, which will do them no good whatsoever.

Otherwise, the Soviet Union would not have been struck down by the blows of the Afghan mojahedin, the U.S. bull would not have been splattered with mud in Somalia, and Israel would not have agreed to withdraw from the land of stones. God will humble the brutal ones because of their fickleness. The U.S. false god [taghut] has grown accustomed to use violence, terrorism, and force to dominate nations.

God has caused the United States to be humbled by the weakest state in the world today in terms of its governance, sovereignty, order, army and economy. By this, I mean the state of Somalia, which suffers from tribal conflict and famine. The U.S. pirates have cast their covetous eyes on it and wish to swallow it, but the world is now watching the dilemma of the United States in the face of the brave Muslim people of Somalia. The United States is now practicing terrorism in its worst form [words indistinct]. It is violating the rights of man by killing, detaining and torturing him. It limits his freedoms and violates his rights.

However, it is now rolling its eyes from the fainting spell of death. It is wondering how to escape. The United States will have to withdraw from Somalia—either voluntarily or forcibly—humbled, desperate and suffering losses. The Somali people will survive as free and Muslim people after this bitter lesson from stupid imperialism. [passage omitted]

God is great. Honor to Sudan.

Iranian Ambassador Meets With Chief Justice Lutfi

LD2909085993 Tehran IRNA in English 0812 GMT 29 Sep 93

[Text] Khartoum, Sept. 29, IRNA—Bilateral relations between Iran and Sudan as well as implementation of the judicial agreement between the two countries were among topics discussed in a meeting between Iran's ambassador here Majid Kamal and Sudanese head of the judiciary Jalal 'Ali Lutfi, Tuesday [28 September].

During the meeting, Kamal handed over a message of invitation to the Sudanese judiciary head from his Iranian counterpart Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi for an official visit to Iran. The judicial agreement between Iran and Sudan was signed during Ayatollah Yazdi's visit here last year.

Kuwait**Iraqi Gunmen Fire at Border Center 27 Sep***LD2809132993 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1240 GMT
28 Sep 93*

[Text] Kuwait, 28 Sep (KUNA)—Armed men from the Iraqi side yesterday—Monday—opened intense fire from their weapons for a period of 20 minutes in the direction of the State of Kuwait's border center of Umm Sadir. The Public Relations Office in the Interior Ministry, in a statement issued here citing an official source at the Interior Ministry, said that the border force yesterday evening informed the UN peace-keeping force UNIKOM of a violation by the Iraqi side by way of opening fire on the Umm Sadir border center. The source added that despite repeated warnings by the Kuwaiti side the firing went on for 20 minutes. The source said that no losses were recorded on the Kuwaiti side and that UNIKOM was informed of the incident.

Prime Minister Comments on Arab Cooperation*NC2809222593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2002 GMT
28 Sep 93*

[Text] Cairo, 28 Sep (MENA)—Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah, Kuwaiti heir apparent and prime minister, has announced that his country will never abandon or deny its Arab identity; that the Kuwaiti people are and will remain Arab; and that Kuwait, which has always stood by the Palestinians, will consider contributing to the economic development of the West Bank and Gaza Strip in line with whatever resolutions are passed by the Gulf Cooperation Council.

In an interview published by the newspaper AL-AHRAM in Wednesday's [29 September] issue, the Kuwaiti heir apparent said: It is not the Arab nation's fault that it produced a treacherous man like Saddam, who assaulted a brother and stabbed a neighbor. The crime of the Iraqi regime's leader has hurt the Arab nation as much as it has hurt Kuwait.

Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah added that Kuwait will remain among the foremost advocates of inter-Arab solidarity. He noted, however, that for this solidarity to be effective it must rest on strong foundations of respect for a country's sovereignty and independence, nonintervention in its domestic affairs, and renunciation of expansionist ambitions and the delusions of domination and hegemony.

He explained that if solidarity is limited to superficial and polite expressions without a frank exchange of views and earnest work, it will collapse before the first challenge.

The Kuwaiti heir apparent said that the Arab boycott of Israel was decided by an Arab League resolution and that its termination must be done through a similar process.

Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah pointed out that the Kuwaiti economy is sound and that the current budget deficit is a

result of the tremendous financial burdens that Kuwait had to shoulder as a result of the treacherous Iraqi invasion, including the costs of the liberation war, a comprehensive reconstruction effort that included infrastructure and public utility projects, and finally rearmament.

He said that the establishment of a common Arab market requires an agreement on certain Arab constants governing inter-Arab ties and the methods of a collective Arab endeavor. He said these constants must not be influenced by the whims of regimes and governments.

The Kuwaiti heir apparent said that resuming dialogue with the countries that supported the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait hinges on their condemnation of that aggression and their support of UN Security Council resolutions on the liberation of Kuwait, including the demarcation of the Kuwait-Iraq border.

The Kuwaiti prime minister said Kuwait has extended financial and political assistance to Bosnia-Herzegovina's Muslim people as part of Arab and Islamic aid and that it will continue to do so.

Concluding his interview with AL-AHRAM, Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah said he hopes to visit Cairo soon.

Defense Minister Postpones Visit to Russia*PM2809132593 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in
Arabic 24 Sep 93 p 4*

[Unattributed report: "Kuwaiti Defense Minister Postpones Visit to Russia"]

[Excerpts] Kuwait, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Kuwaiti Defense Minister Shaykh 'Ali al-Sabah has postponed his visit to Russia, which was scheduled to take place yesterday, because of the current developments there.

The defense minister emphasized that the visit was postponed by agreement with the officials in Moscow and that a new date would be set later on. He pointed out that the security agreement he was due to sign during the visit still stood regardless of developments there and that the agreement was ready for signature.

Shaykh 'Ali al-Sabah disclosed that there was an intention to purchase Russian arms and said that Kuwait always sought to purchase advanced arms and equipment.

The day before yesterday the Kuwaiti defense minister participated in the send-off ceremony for the Peninsula Shield force, which left Kuwait for its position in the Hafar al-Batin region in Saudi Arabia, having been stationed in Kuwait for a time as temporary headquarters. [passage omitted]

In a statement to the press after the ceremony, Defense Minister Shaykh 'Ali al-Sabah said that the Unified Gulf Army was an existing reality and was developing normally. He added that the aim was to build a 100,000-strong Gulf army over the next 10 years. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

Minister on Gaza-Jericho, Pan-Arab Security

PM2809113193 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 23 Sep 93 p 4

[Sawsan Abu-Husayn report: "Saudi Minister of State Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Kingdom Has Not Closed Its Doors To Any Palestinian Leadership"]

[Text] Cairo—Ibrahim Mas'ud, Saudi minister of state for foreign affairs, has said that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has not closed its doors to any Palestinian leadership. He emphasized that the Palestinian issue was, and still is, among the kingdom's foremost interests, as attested by the efforts exerted by Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz ever since he was prince, crown prince, and to this day.

The minister of state revealed that the custodian of the two holy mosques met with former U.S. President Jimmy Carter in 1974 and received from him a U.S. promise to exchange diplomatic representation between the United States and the Palestinians, provided they accept Resolution 242, but everyone rejected the partition resolution or the old solution.

Ibrahim Mas'ud said that the Gaza-Jericho agreement represents "a Palestinian-Israeli step toward peace which we consider a prelude to endorsing the Palestinian people's legitimate rights."

He went on: "For our part, we bolster and support the Palestinian-Israeli agreement because it is the first time Palestine's flag has been hoisted over its national territory."

Furthermore, struggle action from inside provides a better opportunity for independence than resistance from the diaspora states. Thus the Palestinians' recovering part of their territory is a basic step for the constituents of a state. So it is important to work seriously and hard to complete the other steps."

On the decision to discuss pan-Arab security, to which the Arab League is devoting special interest, he said that the studies concerning collective pan-Arab security cannot be approved without tackling the effects resulting from the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. Hence the present Arab atmosphere is still experiencing conditions preventing the establishment of strong and fundamental foundations for pan-Arab security.

Ibrahim Mas'ud urged Iraq to apologize for its invasion of Kuwait, admit its mistake, release Kuwaiti prisoners, and agree to demarcate the border with Kuwait, and then the

comprehensive Arab reconciliation question, which the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia welcomes, can be addressed.

On Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad's call for reconciliation, he said: "We are willing to conduct the reconciliation steps, but practical steps must be taken in relation to the issues I referred to. And we want to witness the credibility of Iraqi action in its dealings with the Arab states, especially as the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia always fulfills what it says, because it respects the policy of commitment and actual implementation and rejects the policy of propaganda."

Concluding his statement, the Saudi minister of state said: At any rate, we sensed major progress during the meetings of the Arab League Council's 100th session. It was an important session. It dealt with new issues and new positive developments which were discussed very objectively.

Yemen

Premier, Ministers Discuss Oil Companies' Security

JN2809191993 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1:00 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Text] Brother Prime Minister Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas today met with the interior minister, the transportation minister, the oil and mineral resources minister, the defense minister, the head of the Central Apparatus for Political Security, and a number of related specialists.

During the meeting, they discussed the security of the oil companies operating in our country. Arrangements, however, are under way to establish a force of their own. The meeting also discussed aggressions to which some oil companies have been exposed, including the French company, Total. The meeting adopted several decisions to protect the oil companies [words indistinct] to secure the safety of the these companies' employees and provide an appropriate climate for these companies to continue their work in accordance with their investment plans.

The brother prime minister had received (?Lord Wright), chairman of the board of directors of the British oil company, (?Lago), operating in our country, who is currently visiting Yemen. During the meeting, they reviewed the company's oil exploration activity and drilling operations in the concession zone in block 35 in the Hadrhramaut Governorate. The meeting was attended by [name indistinct], head of the executive and technical office at the Ministry of Oil and Mineral Resources, and (?Mike Roth), director general of the company's regional office in Yemen.

UN Envoy Presents Answers to Talking Points*JN2809192493 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 28 Sep 93*

[Text] Nizar Hamdun, Iraq's permanent UN representative, met yesterday with the representatives of the United States, Britain, France, and Russia. He presented to them Iraq's answer to the talking points which they presented to him on 24 September concerning the implementation of Security Council Resolution 687 and the obligations of the Special Commission and the UN Security Council.

The following is the text of Iraq's reply:

We have received with astonishment the talking points presented to the Iraqi charge d'affaires in New York by the representatives of the United States, Britain, France, and Russia on 24 September 1993. We would like to note the following concerning the abovementioned points:

1. We are surprised that the ambassadors of the four states should choose to talk on behalf of the Security Council in this and other subjects that are related to relations between Iraq on the one hand and the Security Council and the Special Commission on the other. By appointing themselves as trustees over the Security Council, the four states have made an illegitimate and unacceptable move.

2. Iraq reaffirms its position that it defines its methods of dealing with the Special Commission and its activities in accordance with its obligations based on the Security Council resolutions that Iraq has accepted and on the ground that the Special Commission, which represents the Council, has obligations toward Iraq as an independent, sovereign state and a founding member of the UN Organization. This requires that the Special Commission, while carrying its activities as enunciated by the Council's resolutions, respects Iraq's sovereignty, security, dignity, and legitimate rights. When the Special Commission and its members behave in this manner and opt for dialogue and constructive methods of dealing, then Iraq will work with the Special Commission in an objective, constructive way and will facilitate its tasks.

The talks held with Mr. Rolf Ekeus in Baghdad in July 1993 and the technical talks held in New York in September 1993 have been characterized by the above aspects, leading to useful results. Iraq will adhere to this approach in accordance with these principles in the next round of talks which will be held with Mr. Ekeus in Baghdad and will stick to them in dealing with the inspection activities of the Special Commission in the next stage.

3. The explanation given in the four states' paper on the question of linking the implementation of the resolutions with lifting the ban on oil sales is illegal, contravening the text of Resolution 687, and is based on political objectives aimed at maintaining the state of the unjust blockade on Iraq.

The Security Council resolutions, especially 687, requires from Iraq certain commitments toward the Council, and requires from the Council certain commitments toward Iraq. The Council should fulfill these commitments, especially the speedy and urgent lifting of the unjust and unjustified blockade on Iraq. The four permanent UN Security Council members states should respect the Council's resolution and must not give them tendentious, politically motivated interpretations that have no connection with the UN Charter of duties.

In this connection, Iraq adheres to its stand stipulated in its position paper it presented to Mr. Rolf Ekeus in Baghdad in July 1993 and which was conveyed to the Security Council.

Ekeus' Special Adviser Arrives in Baghdad 28 Sep*JN2809153193 Baghdad INA in English 1355 GMT 28 Sep 93*

[Text] Baghdad, Sept 28, INA—Spokesman for the United Nations and special advisor to head of the UN Special Inspection Commission Rolf Ekeus, Tim Trevan yesterday arrived in Baghdad.

On the causes of his visit, he told journalists that when the head of the UN commission visited Baghdad last July, he decided to conduct more talks in New York.

[In] the period between the first talks and the coming ones, he said, "we put many questions to the Iraqi side that asked us to define accurately what the commission needed to know, and we in turn put forward some questions on important question requiring answers from Baghdad. Our present visit to Baghdad is to obtain the answers".

In reply to a question on his mission success, he responded "we always hope and wish success in our tasks, and this visit is also preparing to Ambassador Ekeus visit on October 1st so that the talks between Iraq and the United Nations continue".

Ekeus advisor added that they would meet representatives from military industry and the foreign ministry.

He expounded that among the fields which the commission is interested in was the resources of provision and production of mass destruction weapons, repeating that they had come to discuss matters related to the questions put forward in New York.

He said when Ekeus would arrive in Baghdad on Friday and begin his talks on Saturday, the question of the cameras and monitoring would be discussed.

On the commission's stance versus the lifting of the blockade imposed on Iraq and the oil and armament boycott, he responded "the matter is up to the Security Council, our task is to submit our report to the Security Council, and then it would decide whether it would lift the boycott on exportation of oil".

On the other hand the B.B.C. yesterday mentioned that Baghdad witnessed the arrival of the biggest delegation of international arms experts chaired by the Russian expert Smedovich.

The broadcasting station quoted the Russian expert as saying that the delegation mission was that had been done with regard to the pending questions between the United Nations and Iraq and to the UN Security Council to help it in considering the sanctions imposed on Iraq.

Paper Warns Against Normalizing Arab-Israel Ties

JN2909103893 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0730 GMT
29 Sep 93

[Text] Baghdad, 29 Sep (INA)—The newspaper BABIL warns against the phenomenon of the "official Arab competition" to recognize the Zionist entity and normalize ties with it even before it begins withdrawal from the occupied Palestinian territories.

In an article contributed by Nuri Najm al-Marsumi published today, the paper provides evidence of this phenomenon, which has surfaced in the aftermath of the endorsement of the Gaza-Jericho accord, saying: This phenomenon has been manifested in the reception accorded to Yitzhaq Rabin in Morocco after the accord signing ceremony in Washington. Moreover, Zionist Energy Minister Moshe Shahal has announced that a Gulf state has offered to provide his entity with natural gas via the occupied Port of Elat. Additionally, the Egyptian electricity minister has offered to link the electricity grids of Egypt and occupied Palestine. The Zionist minister affirmed that the implementation of these offers will help Israel become the first industrial state in the region. The Kuwaiti newspapers have published advertisements, urging Kuwaitis to take part in touristic visits to occupied Jerusalem. Moreover, the activities of middlemen and brokers, such as Adnan Khashoggi, who are bragging about the suspect roles they played to expedite the normalization with the enemy, are gaining momentum. All this has happened, and more is expected to happen, even before the Palestinian people see a single tangible gain, even within the context of the Gaza-Jericho accord.

The paper affirms that this succumbing to the enemy, which we have been witnessing, not only reflects flawed thinking and narrow-mindedness, but also constitutes apostasy. For the Palestinian people, including the team which has endorsed the Gaza-Jericho accord, require a courageous Arab stand that adheres to the inalienable Palestinian rights, as well as a willingness to continue the struggle to extricate these rights. This is necessary to make the enemy realize that there are strong powers supporting the Palestinian people, the paper argues. Therefore, the positions of all must remain unchanged. If some are useless in the struggle, the least they can do is not to cause harm, the paper maintains.

Saddam Said Suffering 'Peculiar' Health Problems

NC2809164593 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Text] Our own sources have reaffirmed reports by sources close to the outcast regime, broadcast during our newscasts yesterday, that dictator Saddam Husayn is ill. Our radio sources explained that the tyrant suffers from peculiar ailments that so far have not been [word indistinct]. These include nervousness, severe headaches, and fits of unconsciousness for long periods of time. He has had these complaints for several months but they have become more frequent in the past two months.

The sources said that Saddam's sickness has horrified his family, with some of his relatives beginning to [words indistinct]. The sources said that Husayn Kamil [Saddam's son-in-law] sent some people to Switzerland through London to transfer new amounts of money and buy property. The sources said that Tariq 'Aziz indirectly confirmed Saddam's peculiar health condition during a meeting in Amman with former Jordanian Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i when the former returned from [word indistinct]. The sources said that 'Aziz told al-Rifa'i that he no longer [words indistinct] and that Saddam has grown extremely nervous and annoyed with the calls for political pluralism and freedom that al-Rifa'i used to make. Saddam believes that the calls mean overthrowing the outcast regime in a method other than a military coup.

Our exclusive sources said that in view of Saddam's health, Barzan al-Tikriti has been eager to repeat [words indistinct].

Saddam Chairs Meeting of Educational Experts

JN2809174893 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn, may God protect and preserve him, has chaired a meeting for educational experts and school headmasters in our country.

During the meeting, the conferees discussed conditions in the educational field and the plan prepared by the Education Ministry to execute the campaign of faith to teach the Holy Koran. His excellency made some comments and remarks on the subjects proposed, aiming at establishing educational and social values for the new generations that agree with the great objectives and noble message of our blessed revolution, within the framework of the educational principles and noble social values of our society. These principles and values constitute the most important pillar for our growing society.

The experts conducted a comprehensive assessment of the campaign of faith to teach the Holy Koran, which enjoys the care of the leader president, may God protect him.

The meeting was attended by Hatim Hamdan al-'Azzawi, chief of the Presidential Office; Hikmat 'Abdallah al-Bazzaz, minister of education; Humam 'Abd-al-Khaliq, minister of higher education and scientific research; and 'Abd-al-Mun'im Ahmad Salih, minister of awqaf and religious affairs.

Saddam Family Dispute Over Oil Sales Reported

NC2809181893 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Text] According to exclusive information, the dispute between Husayn Kamil, the tyrant's son-in-law and military industrialization minister, and the tyrant's son, 'Udayy, has flared up once again over [words indistinct] Iraqi oil through Iran. [words indistinct] instructions [words indistinct] whereby a businessman close to Husayn Kamil was made the sole exporter of oil to Iran [words indistinct]. The instructions denied this privilege to traders and other agents, including 'Udayy's business director, something that angered 'Udayy. 'Udayy's business director used to export some 30,000 barrels of oil per day on behalf of 'Udayy. [passage indistinct]

Defense Minister Visits al-Qadisiyah Forces Command

JN2809191293 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Text] Defense Minister fighter Staff General 'Ali Hasan al-Majid today visited the al-Qadisiyah Forces Command, 3d Corps. During the visit, the defense minister met with the fighter staff major general commander of the al-Qadisiyah Forces and the commanders of the units operating in the sector. Comrade Kamil Yasin, member of the Iraq Command and deputy secretary of the Military Office of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, attended the meeting.

The fighter defense minister listened to a detailed review by the commanders of the nature of their work and the daily training of the units. The fighter defense minister stressed the need to enhance positive aspects and overcome negative aspects in the future in order to serve and enhance the combat capability of our units and make them always an impregnable bulwark to defend the beloved homeland.

At the end of the meeting, the fighter defense minister blessed the efforts of the al-Qadisiyah Forces and the divisions operating with these forces—commanders, supervisors, and fighters—and their role in enhancing the operational capability of the units of our valiant army.

The fighter commanders made a pledge to leader President Saddam Husayn to remain loyal to principles and sacrifice their lives in defense of the homeland's soil.

The meeting was attended by the comrade brigadier general secretary of the al-Basrah Military Branch of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and the fighter staff brigadier general commander of the defense forces of the City of Cities [al-Basrah].

Western Allies Use of Aircraft Facilities Protested

JN2809121993 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1030 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Text] Iraq has informed the Arab League that Kuwaiti and Saudi Arabian rulers continue to offer facilities for American, British, and French aircraft violating Iraqi airspace. The planes take off from bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait and pose a threat to Iraq's security and sovereignty.

This came in a letter sent by Iraq to Dr. 'Isamat 'Abd-al-Majid, the League secretary general yesterday. It noted that on 22 and 23 September, the aircraft mounted 223 sorties.

Iraq requested that the letter, detailing the violations, be circulated to League member states.

Backlash From Leak of King Husayn Meeting Feared

TA2909125093 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
29 Sep 93 p A4

[Report by political correspondent Hemi Shalev]

[Text] The meeting between Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and King Husayn was initiated by the Jordanian ruler and was mainly meant to allay the king's fears regarding future ties between the West Bank and Jordan and the "danger" of a Palestinian population transfer to Jordan. This was the assessment made yesterday by political sources in Jerusalem. The sources added that Rabin was furious that the details of his meeting with King Husayn were published in the press after his aides failed to successfully "hide" him for a few hours. Sources at the Prime Minister's Office yesterday denied reports that the prime minister was angry, and, sticking to their claim that Rabin had participated in an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] exercise, they continued to deny that Rabin had held any meeting with King Husayn.

The political sources claimed that the unexpected reports in the press had forced Rabin to deviate from his usual behavior and explicitly deny that such a meeting had been held in order to keep his promise to the king that their meeting would remain a confidential secret. As a rule, Rabin refrains from explicitly denying reports that could later be revealed as true, as he did for months with regard to the secret negotiations between Israel and the PLO.

The political sources also noted that the disclosure of the meeting had given rise to concern among Israeli officials that Jordan would suspect that Israel had intentionally leaked the news of the meeting or, alternatively, to fears that Jordan or other Arab countries would conclude that Israel cannot keep a secret. "From the very beginning, the meeting was designed to assuage Husayn's fears," a political source said yesterday. "However, its aftermath must have spawned renewed concern and new fears."

Among King Husayn's concerns mentioned yesterday were recent reports in the Israeli press about the Jordanian monarch's having warned Israeli Prime Minister Golda Meir about the imminent outbreak of the Yom Kippur War. These reports, a senior cabinet minister said yesterday, "were certainly not received with great appreciation in Damascus."

Authoritative sources yesterday asserted that "Husayn sought reassurance from Rabin" in the wake of Israel's agreement with the PLO. In Amman, the sources said, "there was particular concern regarding the possibility of a Palestinian population transfer into the Hashemite Kingdom" following the PLO takeover of the Jericho region. The sources described the Jordanian fear as "irrational."

Apparently, in his meeting with the king, Rabin stressed Israel's commitment to incorporate Jordan in any future permanent arrangement.

Husayn Warning to Meir Detailed

TA2909112693 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT
(SUKKOT supplement) in Hebrew 29 Sep 93
pp 14, 15, 19

[Report by Shlomo Naqdimon]

[Excerpt] On 25 September 1973, an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] helicopter landed at the small landing strip on the hill near one of Tel Aviv's noisier highways. King Husayn alighted from the helicopter, accompanied by Zayd al-Rifa'i, his new prime minister, and a group of senior officials.

Although it was late in the afternoon, the king was familiar with the spacious building from his previous visits. King Husayn thought it was Prime Minister Golda Meir's residence. He did not know that it also served as a guest house for unnamed visiting leaders.

In the course of their meeting, Golda Meir discussed the developments on Israel's northern border with the king. She did not tell him anything he did not already know.

Husayn: I have information from an excellent source that most of the Syrian Army units have assumed prejump positions [last two words in English]. The purpose of this deployment is not known.

Meir: Could Syria launch a military operation without Egypt?

Husayn: I do not think so. Both countries will act in unison.

The details of the secret meeting between Golda Meir and King Husayn appear in documents that were kept secret until now. A perusal of these concise and business-like documents sheds a great deal of light on our knowledge about the Yom Kippur War and the events that preceded it.

The documents show that the meeting between Prime Minister Golda Meir and King Husayn, 12 days before the war broke out, was the ninth meeting between the two leaders since Mrs. Meir became prime minister at the beginning of 1969.

During the months that preceded the aforementioned meeting, the two leaders discussed the joint development of the Dead Sea's natural resources. Obviously, political issues were also raised in each meeting. This was also the case in their 25 September meeting. Mordekhay Gazit, the director general of the Prime Minister's Office, also participated in the meeting at Golda Meir's side.

A similar warning was also issued a day earlier, on 24 September, by the IDF Intelligence Branch's research department, which stated: "Our assessments that the

Syrian Army has currently adopted full emergency deployment at the front have been confirmed."

It remains unknown whether the Jordanian king knew the exact date the war was supposed to begin but preferred not to disclose the information in his meeting with Golda Meir. What is known is that he and Golda Meir fixed a date for a meeting between Crown Prince Hasan, the Jordanian heir, and Israeli Agriculture Minister Hayim Gvati, in order to discuss joint use of Dead Sea resources, on 7 October, the day after Yom Kippur. [passage omitted]

Peres 'Determined' To Make Peace With Syria

TA2909062993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 29 Sep 93

[Text] At the United Nations, a reception was held last night for Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, attended by eight foreign ministers and some 50 ambassadors. Among the envoys were several from countries with which Israel has no diplomatic relations, including Morocco and Qatar. Peres says it was the first time in the history of Israel's relations with the world body that an Israeli reception was held at UN Headquarters. Today Peres will attend signing ceremonies to renew diplomatic relations with Gabon and the island of Mauritius. Ties were broken following the Yom Kippur War.

Also last night, Peres had a meeting with UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali. Our special correspondent in New York says Peres, during the meeting, charged that because of Syria's influence over Lebanon, Beirut had dispatched a symbolic force only to south Lebanon and had failed to disarm the Hizballah. The foreign minister said also that if the Lebanese Government would prove itself capable of maintaining quiet in south Lebanon, Israel would have no reason to stay in the security zone.

Earlier, delivering the keynote address at the opening of the General Assembly, Peres said that he looked forward to signing peace agreements with Syria, Jordan, and Lebanon, now that Israel and the Palestinians had taken the first step. This report from Judy Lessing at UN Headquarters:

[Begin recording] [Lessing] Mr. Peres met the question of negotiating with Syria head on:

[Peres] We hope—as a matter of fact, we are determined—to make peace with Syria. Yet we ask the Syrian leadership: If it has chosen peace, why does it refuse to meet openly? If Syria is aiming at the Egyptian fruits of peace, it must follow the process that led to it.

[Lessing] The foreign minister also talked about political agreements with Jordan and Lebanon:

[Peres] We have agreed already with the Hashemite Kingdom on many complicated issues, and there is no doubt that we can complete the story fully, that we can offer the people of both sides of the river full peace. It is for Lebanon to make a choice between the Hizballah—

that operates from its territory and then takes orders from another government—or to insist on having one army, one policy, and a real offer of tranquillity to its people and security to its neighbors.

[Lessing] Foreign Minister Peres spelled out the advantages of Middle East peace, including scientific development, better communications, tourism, and the benefits of foreign investment:

[Peres] I know that there is a suspicion that when referring to a common market in the Middle East or announcing an Israeli contribution, it may be perceived as an attempt to win preference or to establish domination. Ladies and gentlemen, may I say sincerely and loudly that we did not give up territorial control to engage ourselves in economic superiority. The age of domination—political or economic—is dead. The time of cooperation is opened.

[Lessing] Mr. Peres told the UN that Israel is very serious about maintaining the momentum of the agreement with the Palestinians. He said the agreement shows that there are no insoluble problems. [end recording]

Urges Syria To 'Emulate' Egypt at Talks

TA2909063293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 29 Sep 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres yesterday held a meeting with UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali. Mr. Peres alleged that as a result of Syria's influence, the Lebanese Government has sent only a token military force to southern Lebanon and that this force received orders not to disarm Hizballah. After the meeting, our correspondent Arye Golan spoke with Mr. Peres:

[Begin recording] [Golan] Mr. Foreign Minister, in your speech to the General Assembly you called on Syria to follow Egypt and to win the fruits of peace.

[Peres] No, I did not say this. I said that if they want to enjoy the fruits Egypt has enjoyed, they must emulate Egyptian behavior. I made no promises.

[Golan] Some people interpreted your speech as implying that just as Egypt received the Sinai, so will Syria receive the Golan Heights if it follows Egypt's path. Is this an incorrect interpretation?

[Peres] It certainly is. I spoke much more cautiously.

[Golan] Can you explain what you offered President al-Asad?

[Peres] I called on him to speak openly about security and peace and to stop hiding. Only then will we address the issue of withdrawal. Incidentally, you must recall that with Egypt we also had three agreements, each of which constituted a test. There was a disengagement agreement, an interim agreement, and only at the final stage did we reach a final agreement. This was intentional, because at each stage we wanted to examine the results.

[Golan] Is there anything in the offing with King Husayn? Were you briefed by the prime minister about his meeting with the king?

[Peres] I think you should direct this question to the prime minister.

[Golan] So were you not briefed?

[Peres] I know nothing about such a meeting, and I did not say that such a meeting was held.

[Golan] Today we believe that everything is possible.

[Peres] I think this is a good development from the journalistic point of view.

[Golan] Mr. Foreign Minister, what was the most important meeting you held here?

[Peres] The most moving meeting was with Nelson Mandela. All the other meetings were important, whether with the troika or with representatives of several countries that decided to resume relations with us. Tomorrow we will hold some ceremonies in which we will resume relations with several countries. A new picture is slowly emerging. I believe that Israeli diplomacy is contributing toward the general trend of financial aid, and this is very significant.

[Golan] Will you discuss this issue with U.S. Secretary of State Christopher tomorrow?

[Peres] Yes indeed.

[Golan] Will you set a new date for the resumption of the official peace talks in Washington?

[Peres] Yes, we will also raise this issue.

[Golan] Do you have any date in mind?

[Peres] I will tell you after the meeting.

[Golan] Mr. Foreign Minister, while you were addressing the General Assembly, several demonstrators interrupted you from the visitors gallery. Did they bother you?

[Peres] I think they added a little drama to the occasion.

[Golan] How do you regard the opposition to the agreement with the PLO?

[Peres] Minor, albeit very noisy. I prefer something small and noisy, however, to something big and quiet.

[Golan] Thank you very much. [end recording]

Opposition to MFO Deployment in Gaza Reported

TA2909072593 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
29 Sep 93 pp A1, A10

[Report by Ze'ev Schiff]

[Excerpts] Israel has recently received a proposal to move part of the MFO [Multinational Force and Observers], currently stationed in the Sinai Peninsula, into the Gaza Strip to replace the IDF [Israel Defense Forces], which is scheduled to withdraw from Gaza within six months. The proposal came as a surprise to Israel, which views it as an attempt to deploy foreign troops in the territories. It evoked immediate opposition at both the military and political level and will apparently be rejected.

Some people consider the proposal an American attempt, prompted by Egypt, to guarantee the IDF's smooth withdrawal from the Gaza Strip, even if terrorist attacks continue. According to this approach, the deployment of a multinational force would reduce friction between the IDF and the Palestinian police. It was evidently assumed that Israel would accept the proposal because the MFO is not a UN body. Most of the soldiers and commanding officers in the MFO are American.

The proposal was delivered to Israel even before it was cleared with all the countries that dispatch units to the MFO. Not all the countries were asked whether they agree to an arrangement that would transfer their units to the Gaza Strip. Apparently, the proposal's initiators assumed that there would be no difficulty in securing the agreement of the other MFO member states if this would facilitate the implementation of the agreement between Israel and the PLO leading to the IDF's withdrawal. [passage omitted]

From the very beginning, the Palestinians have demanded that international forces be stationed in the Gaza Strip and in the other areas from which the IDF plans to withdraw. The Palestinian preference was for a UN-sponsored international force operating under the aegis of the UN Security Council. It was assumed that the Palestinians were demanding this in order to make sure that the Palestinian police would have the backing of an international force.

It seems that the Palestinians' fear that they will prove unable to prevent terrorist attacks is the real reason behind this proposal. Israel has rejected the Palestinian demand. After a long argument, it was decided in the declaration of principles that "a temporary international or foreign presence, as agreed upon," would be deployed in the territories vacated by the IDF in the Gaza Strip and the Jericho region. Hence, Israel has halfheartedly agreed to the presence of an international force on condition that it is only deployed for a specific period of time and that its presence is mutually agreed upon by both Israel and the Palestinians.

The Israeli opposition to the proposal to transfer part of the MFO from Sinai into the Gaza Strip stems from several reasons. The first and most important reason is that Israel is opposed in principle to the deployment of a foreign force, whether international or from a single foreign country, in the territories. Israel feels that the

Palestinians and the Israelis must learn to deal themselves with the serious problems they face. It is Israel's position that there must be no return to the armistice regime from the late 1940's and 1950's.

In addition, a multinational force is also motivated by foreign interests and may disrupt relations between Israel and the Palestinians or the other countries that allocate soldiers to the force, as seen in the past with UNIFIL [UN Interim Force in Lebanon].

Another reason for Israel's opposition stems from the fear that this may constitute an indirect way to liquidate the MFO in the Sinai Peninsula. About one year ago, Egypt proposed removing the multinational force from Sinai. Israel rejected this proposal. On the other hand, Israel is not opposed to the stationing of international observers, upon the mutual agreement of both parties, when general elections are held in the territories, and this is even stipulated in the declaration of principles.

Baraq: IDF To Meet Gaza-Jericho Withdrawal Timetable

TA2809164793 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Text] The chief of staff visited Jericho today in order to closely follow up on IDF [Israel Defense Forces] activities associated with the implementation of the agreement of principles and the autonomy on Gaza-Jericho First. The chief of staff said in a briefing to journalists that he believes that the IDF will be able to meet the timetable for handing over self-government powers to the Palestinians. Golan Yokhpaz reports from Jericho:

[Begin recording] [Yokhpaz] It is not my first or last visit to Jericho, the chief of staff said today. Lieutenant General Ehud Baraq toured Jericho and its environs to observe from close up activities linked to implementing the interim arrangements in Gaza and Jericho. Accompanied by Maj. Gen. Uzi Dayan, head of the IDF's Planning Branch; Brig. Gen. Gadi Zohar, head of the Judea and Samaria Civil Administration; and Maj. Gen. Nehemya Tamari, commander of the Central Command, Baraq was briefed by senior officers, walked around the town, and listened to what locals had to say. He said he received the impression that the local Arab population is seriously preparing to implement the agreement in Jericho. Baraq said the Palestinians have every reason in the world to try to make the agreement work in Jericho and to see there are no security problems.

[Baraq] We still do not know whom we will be facing around the negotiating table to discuss Gaza-Jericho First. In my view, the people here have a vested interest in implementing that part of the accord so that they will be able to strengthen their demand to expand it later on. On the other hand, I am convinced that there will be terrorist elements which will try, and in some cases succeed, in carrying out attacks. We are deploying in such a way as to make a maximum effort to foil these efforts.

[Yokhpaz] Two weeks after the signing of the agreement on the White House lawn, Gen. Baraq believes there has been a decline in Fatah activities in the territories, but he stressed that there has been an escalation in attacks by Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Islamic Jihad rejectionists of the peace process.

[Baraq] We believe there has been a certain decline in attacks by Fatah and PLO elements in general. On the other hand, there are efforts by Hamas and Islamic Jihad to escalate activities, and we are adapting ourselves to these changes.

[Yokhpaz] Toward the end of his Jericho tour, Baraq was asked what stage the contacts between the IDF and the Palestinians were at. We do not know who will represent the Palestinians, but serious negotiations have still not begun, he said.

[Baraq] There are ongoing contacts between the Civil Administration and the Palestinians on the spot. Central Command officers meet Palestinians, but at this stage we still do not know which Palestinians—either local or from Tunis—will face us in the negotiations.

[Yokhpaz] Gen. Baraq promised that the IDF will be ready to implement the autonomy in Gaza-Jericho First on time. [end recording]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1600 GMT on 28 Sep adds: "The chief of staff told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee it appears that the Syrians are trying to uphold the understandings reached in the wake of Operation Accountability, according to which no Katyushas are to be fired at the Galilee. There has lately been a rise in shelling incidents in the security zone because the elements operating there are still interested in bringing about an IDF withdrawal from the area." The report quotes Gen. Baraq as saying later in Jericho that "the IDF will permit any Israeli who wants to pass through Jericho or visit the synagogue on Tall Jericho to do so safely. But in the coming months Israel will pave a road bypassing Jericho in order to assure that the area east of the town remains totally under IDF control."]

Report of Husayn-Rabin Meeting 'Groundless'

NC2809152893 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Text] Jordanian Minister of Information Dr. Ma'n Abu-Nuwar has categorically denied the Israeli radio report this morning that King Husayn met with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

He told our radio's central news unit that the report is groundless and that no meeting took place between King Husayn and the Israeli prime minister.

Multiparty Elections To Take Place on Schedule

Al-Majali Affirms Election Date

JN2809172593 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Text] In his reply to a question posed by the Radio and Television Corporation's correspondent on the date of the next parliamentary elections, Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali emphasized that the next general parliamentary elections will be held on their scheduled date on 8 November 1993.

Abu-Nuwar: 'No Contradiction'

NC2809193993 London MBC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Text] Jordanian Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali has stated that the first multiparty elections in about four decades will take place in Jordan on their scheduled date, 8 November. A Jordanian Government source said earlier that the Jordanian Council of Ministers decided at its meeting this morning to request King Husayn to use his constitutional powers to postpone the elections indefinitely. We telephoned Jordanian Information Minister Ma'n Abu-Nuwar a short while ago and asked him about these contradictory positions:

[Begin Abu-Nuwar recording] There is no contradiction in the position of the Jordanian Government that the general elections be held on 8 November 1993 without any change of their scheduled date. There was some debate and dialogue in the press about postponement, but his majesty the king ordered that the date remain unchanged. [end recording]

Further on 'Surprise' Decision

JN2809175993 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Report by Randah Habib from Amman]

[Text] A decision by King Husayn of Jordan to keep the date set for the legislative elections unchanged—despite the statements made by various Jordanian officials, including those made by Husayn himself, on the strong

possibilities of postponing them—came as a surprise to everyone following the government's recommendation to postpone the elections.

A senior official told our radio that King Husayn today studied the recommendations and proposals concerning the postponement and came out with the conclusion that the postponement is unjustified and that the excuses given are feeble, unconvincing, and cannot be considered as extraordinary conditions that dictate a royal decree to postpone elections. The official added that Husayn has always been enthusiastic about making fair decisions and on keeping the march of democracy treading on its correct path.

Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali confirmed to us that the date set for the legislative elections remains unchanged, and that they will be held as scheduled.

Political quarters, which also were surprised by the decision to keep the date set for elections unchanged, say this step will help strengthen national unity in the country.

Decision Shows Democracy 'Here to Stay'

JN2909074293 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 29 Sep 93 p 4

[“Editorial: “Win for democracy”]

[Text] The decision to go ahead with the national elections on time in spite of all concerns about them is a vote of confidence not only in our democratic process but in the people of the country as well. The odds were heavily in favour of delaying the Nov. 8 polls till the last minute, when the prime minister announced that Jordanians would elect their next Parliament as originally planned.

His Majesty the King and senior officials had strongly hinted that postponement was imminent, so it was a pleasant surprise to hear that the final verdict was positive.

Against the debate that was taking place, the resolution of the issue in favour of holding the elections on schedule is tantamount to ushering a new era of participatory democracy in our country. For the decision will no doubt inject new confidence by the people in themselves. This will have at least two positive implications: one political and the other economic. Ever since speculation about shelving the elections was first circulated, the business mood in the country suffered and the political fears and anxieties about the PLO-Israel accord on interim self-government were reinforced. But the decision not to waver in the face of some real problems and obstacles that stood in the way should prove to be beneficial in both the short and long runs.

Regardless of any and all external reasons for holding and postponing the elections this year, debate and deliberations that took place in Jordan were not only healthy and frank, but they also had a happy ending. But overruling the proponents of the delay, the King has sent

a clear and loud message that democracy in Jordan is here to stay. The Monarch has also sent a signal that the Kingdom has nothing to fear from the Palestinian-Israeli deal and is confident enough to cope with all eventualities in a sane and sober manner.

Panic has never been the mainstay of Jordanian domestic or external policies, and yesterday's announcement confirms the long-held view that Amman does not take national steps in haste. We live in a country that accepts the challenges head on, and we can only be proud of that.

A major battle for democracy in Jordan has been won.

Decision To Hold Elections Lauded

JN2909105093 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic
29 Sep 93 pp 1, 17

[Editorial: "The Elections On Time"]

[Text] Once again, Jordan is reaffirming its democratic option from which it will not deviate. Holding the elections on time despite new developments and realities, which have divided the public opinion between a desire to postpone these elections or hold them as scheduled, is a step that reaffirms Jordan's adherence, with strong determination and faith, to its full democratic choice.

Moreover, the announcement of holding the elections on time, despite the swift developments implied by the Palestinian-Israeli agreement, shows Jordan's determination, which will not be affected by recent circumstances, to complete the democratic march with firm steps forward.

This is especially so since Jordan, as the leader of the march His Majesty King Husayn said, is stronger than ever before. It is stronger through the will of its leadership, the solidarity of its people, national unity, and cohesion of its domestic front.

Democratic life and policy are the choice of Jordan's leadership and people. It is the starting point for construction, progress, and resurgence through effective public participation in decisionmaking, drafting domestic and foreign policy, laying down programs for economic, social, and cultural development on all levels.

Jordan has closely examined the new developments and realities resulting from the Gaza-Jericho agreement, especially in light of the differences in opinion and interpretations about postponing the elections. However, through his wisdom, knowledge, and sound vision, King Husayn decided the matter and opted for the democratic choice, especially since the democratic choice can confront all developments and urgent circumstances regardless of how difficult, harsh, or controversial.

Holding the elections on time will reinforce the democratic edifice. May God bless this move.

Minister: Journalist's Detention Judiciary Affair

JN2909114393 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
29 Sep 93 p 10

["Special to the JORDAN TIMES by Sana' 'Atiyah]

[Excerpts] Amman—The Ministry of Information Tuesday [28 September] refused to interfere in any way on behalf of a Jordanian journalist who was detained last Sunday by the military prosecution on charges of slandering the State Security Court.

Minister of Information Ma'n Abu-Nuwar told representatives from different local newspapers that he, as a member of the executive branch, would not intervene with the judicial branch.

"Constitutionally, I cannot interfere with the judiciary and the courts," Dr. Abu-Nuwar said from his office at the ministry, and "advised" the journalists to do the same.

The minister was responding to demands made by journalists that Dr. Abu-Nuwar and the ministry seek the release of detained reporter, Ramadan al-Rawashidah, on bail, refer his case to the civil court, and take a clear position "to protect freedom of press."

Mr. al-Rawashidah, a reporter from al-Ahali weekly, was arrested in front of the State Security Court for allegedly slandering the court during his coverage of a trial of 10 people accused of plotting to kill His Majesty King Husayn. More than two dozen journalists gathered in front of the Ministry of Information on Tuesday to express solidarity with and protest against their colleague's detention. [passage omitted]

The minister assured the members of the press that the military attorney-general had promised to refer Mr. al-Rawashidah's case to a civil court. He said that he had contacted the attorney-general and the minister of justice to "make sure no injustice is done to your colleague, and none is done against him." [passage omitted]

Al-Majali Praises Mubarak, Comments on Peace

NC2909130193 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio
Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 29 Sep 93

[Text] Jordanian Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali has wished President Mubarak best wishes for success in shouldering the burdens of the coming phase of domestic action during his new term in office.

In an interview with our radio, al-Majali urged Mubarak to continue to support the peace process in the Middle East, emphasizing that Arab cooperation will promote peace and safeguard all Arab rights.

Discussing Jordan's stand on the Middle East peace process and the Palestinian issue, al-Majali affirmed that Jordan has been a forerunner in defending the Palestinian cause and in recognizing the PLO as the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. He indicated

that the Jordanian Government supports any Palestinian decision that the Palestinian people see as in their interest.

The Jordanian prime minister said the general parliamentary elections in Jordan will be held as scheduled. He said the Jordanian Government has not made any decision to postpone these elections. He affirmed that the Jordanian Government's stand is firm and strong because it depends on consistent national principles.

King Receives Message From al-Qadhdhafi

JN2809180293 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Text] Today, His Majesty King Husayn received at the Royal Hashemite Court Libya's Arab League Representative Ibrahim al-Bishari, who conveyed to his majesty a verbal message from Libyan President Mu'ammarr al-Qadhdhafi, and greetings and wishes of the Libyan president to his majesty of continued good health and happiness.

His Majesty King Husayn asked the Libyan envoy to convey his greetings to President al-Qadhdhafi and his wishes to the Libyan people to continue their good march toward progress and prosperity.

Ibrahim al-Bishari valued the prominent role that His Majesty King Husayn plays in service of the pan-Arab causes and the nation's steadfastness in the face of the challenges facing it.

The meeting was attended by Dr. Khalid al-Karaki, Royal Hashemite Court chief, and the Libyan ambassador in Amman.

Al-Hasan Meets Iran's Velayati, Others

JN2809120193 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1000 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Text] On the sidelines of the 48th session of the UN General Assembly, Talal al-Sat'an al-Hasan, minister of state for foreign affairs, held meetings with the foreign ministers of France, Norway, and Belgium, the current EC chairman.

During the meetings, al-Hasan reviewed Jordan's viewpoint on the developments of the peace process, especially with regard to the Palestinian-Israeli agreement and the Jordanian-Israeli agenda agreement. He stressed Jordan's constant commitment to the peace process and its bases in order to arrive at a just, comprehensive, and durable peace.

The minister explained the difficulties and challenges faced by Jordan as it endeavors to make the peace process successful, especially in economic fields, and the effects of the siege imposed on the al-'Aqabah port. He also gave a briefing on the democratic life, political pluralism, and respect for human rights which Jordan observes and defends.

Also in the course of his participation in the meetings of the 48th session of the UN General Assembly, Talal Sat'an al-Hasan met with Iranian Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati. They reviewed a number of issues of mutual interest, especially the peace process developments, in addition to bilateral relations.

Al-Hasan explained the role played by Jordan and His Majesty King Husayn to boost the peace process, support the Palestine question, and to safeguard and maintain Islamic holy places. He also explained the economic difficulties and challenges faced by Jordan.

Diplomatic Relations With South Africa Approved

JN2809184693 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Text] At its meeting today, the Council of Ministers decided to establish diplomatic relations between the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the Government of South Africa.

Armed Forces Chief Leaves for U.S. Visit

JN2909075493 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 29 Sep 93 p 25

[Text] Amman—AL-RA'Y—Staff Lieutenant General 'Abd-al-Hafiz Mar'i al-Ka'abinah, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, left Amman for the United States yesterday on an official visit of several days. He was seen off at Queen 'Alia International Airport by the chief of staff of the Royal Navy Forces.

Khaddam, Russian Officials Discuss Peace Process

PM2909104193 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 28 Sep 93 p 3

[Salwa al-Ustuwani report: "Syria Reaffirms Palestinian Unity of Ranks Through Dialogue"]

[Text] Damascus—A Syrian official spokesman has stated that Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam held talks yesterday with Russian First Deputy Foreign Minister Anatoliy Adamishin in the presence of the Russian ambassador in Damascus. The talks covered the situation in the region and bilateral relations and are seen as an indication of Syrian sympathy with Russian President Boris Yeltsin.

Two days ago the Russian delegation held similar talks with senior Jordanian officials in Amman. It also met with Syrian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Nasir Qaddur the day before yesterday.

According to diplomatic sources, the Russian first deputy foreign minister conveyed to Khaddam the Russian views on the Gaza-Jericho agreement and Russian fears of Palestinian conflicts which might hamper Palestinian-Israeli attempts to implement the agreement and adversely affect the peace process.

The sources said that Syria reaffirmed its clear position on the agreement, namely that it has created a gap in the unified Arab position but that that would have no effect on the course of the peace negotiations because Syria's position is clear and its demands—for implementation of the land-for-peace principle, full withdrawal from the Golan and southern Lebanon, and restoration of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights—are firm.

The diplomatic sources also said that Syria reaffirmed that Palestinian unity of position could only be achieved through inter-Palestinian dialogue and that a split position would only benefit Israel, which would then retreat from the concessions ceiling.

The Syrian officials stressed to the Russian delegation that Russia and the United States should use all their influence to push Israel toward a just and comprehensive peace and restoration of rights to their rightful owners in accordance with international legitimacy and the commitments made by Russia and the United State regarding the peace process.

The sources added that the Syrian officials acquainted the Russian delegation with the official Syrian position and views on developments in Russia, pointing out that the mere fact that high-ranking officials have received the Russian delegation reflects Syrian sympathy with President Yeltsin.

Al-Shar' Meets With Counterparts in New York

JN2909070193 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 29 Sep 93

[Text] New York—Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' met with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal in New York yesterday afternoon on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly [UNGA] meetings. They exchanged views on the Palestinian-Israeli accord, the loopholes it contains, the repercussions of the accord on the Palestinian scene, and the regional situation. They also discussed the importance of continuing the bilateral negotiations on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks, as well as the need to honor the Madrid formula, which is grounded in Resolutions 242 and 338, the land-for-peace formula, and complete Israeli withdrawal from the Golan and southern Lebanon. The two ministers also discussed Syrian-Saudi ties. They agreed to hold a meeting of the Joint Syrian-Saudi Committee during the second half of this month [as heard]. They also agreed on the need to activate the work of this committee to enhance and promote the fraternal bilateral ties.

Yesterday morning, Faruq al-Shar' met with Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and discussed recent Arab developments. They also exchanged views on the topics listed on the agenda of the 48th UNGA session, particularly those related to the Arab-Israeli conflict. They also addressed the issues that will be discussed during the meetings of the Arab group, the Nonaligned Movement group, and the Islamic Conference Organization group due to be held on the sidelines of the UNGA meetings.

The foreign minister had earlier met with Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, Kuwaiti first deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Mubarak, Bahraini minister of foreign affairs. The talks centered on the Palestinian-Israeli accord and how it affects the next phase of the peace process. Foreign Minister al-Shar' also discussed with his Kuwaiti and Bahraini counterparts fraternal bilateral ties and other issues of common interest.

Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' has also met with Norwegian Foreign Affairs Johan Holst. Their talks revolved around the Palestinian-Israeli accord. The Norwegian foreign affairs minister explained the circumstances surrounding the secret negotiations between the Israeli and Palestinian sides. He affirmed that there can be no just and comprehensive peace in the region without Syria. He also affirmed the importance of continuing the bilateral negotiations on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks.

For his part, al-Shar' affirmed Syria's commitment to the basics of the peace process, and also to continuing the bilateral negotiations in Washington to ensure the implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 so as to achieve complete Israeli withdrawal from the Golan and the occupied Arab territories.

Socialist Unionist Party Criticizes Gaza-Jericho

JN2709165893 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 27 Sep 93

[Text] The Socialist Unionist Party has affirmed that the [Syrian-Egyptian] secession anniversary on 28 September [1961] prompts us to further close our ranks as part of the National Progressive Front led by struggler leader Hafiz al-Asad.

In a statement on this occasion, the party affirmed that the Syrian 8 March revolution was a decisive reply to the secession. The Corrective Movement led by President Hafiz al-Asad was a shield against attacks by enemies. This movement, the statement adds, stopped the retreats and turned them into a march of progress toward liberation and unity.

The statement pointed to the Arab situation and the enemy's attempts to drag Arabs into retreats and setbacks, as shown in agreements whose threat to and distance from Arab aspirations will be revealed by history.

The statement affirmed that the Gaza-Jericho agreement only represents those who signed it. This agreement is not the objective for which the martyrs made their sacrifices. Peoples are stronger than setbacks, and they are the ones who make history, the statement added.

Hizballah Leaders, Khaddam Discuss Gaza-Jericho

NC2909085893 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 29 Sep 93

[Text] A delegation of Hizballah's leaders, led by Secretary General Hasan Nasrallah and comprised of Hajj Husayn Khalil, head of the Political Bureau, Deputy Sayyid Ibrahim Amin al-Sayyid, and Sayyid Husayn al-Musawi, has visited the Syrian capital and met Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam.

The meeting dealt with the general situation and the developments in the region in light of the treasonous Gaza-Jericho agreement, an agreement that has torn open the Arab and Muslim armor, exposing a chink through which the enemy hopes to infiltrate the region.

Israel's Efforts To Reach Separate Solutions Seen

JN2509165993 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1135 GMT 25 Sep 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: Yesterday's statement by a U.S. Department of State spokesman totally contradicts the enthusiastic statements that accompanied the signing of the Gaza-Jericho agreement. But this statement, which warned against any expectations that this agreement will lead to imminent agreements on the other tracks of Middle East peace talks, came as no surprise. Indeed, it would have been surprising if the U.S. spokesman had said anything else. The U.S. spokesman's statement

confirms our earlier warnings that Israel is seeking a separate and partial agreement in order to prevent the achievement of a comprehensive and just solution. The only thing preventing the progress of the peace process toward a comprehensive solution is the absence of Israel's desire to achieve such a solution.

The fact is that the Gaza-Jericho agreement was concluded in the dark outside the framework of the public and official bilateral negotiations in Washington. This proves what Arab parties' reiterated about the lack of Israeli seriousness during the 11 rounds of negotiations since the launching of the peace process. Clearly, this lack of seriousness is caused by Israel's desire to depart from the framework and the basis of the peace process. Movement in line with this approach to peace on every track—even if the speed differed between one track and the other—did not satisfy Israel. Its main objective was to deal unilaterally with each track.

The negotiations are founded on clear fundamentals recognized by the world community—the resolutions of international legitimacy. These, however, contradict Israel's ceaseless efforts to depart from these resolutions in the efforts to reach a future peace formula. Only separate deals can respond to Israel's calculations. Now that it has achieved this, Israel is intensifying its efforts to obstruct the framework and the contents of the peace process as defined by the Madrid conference.

The campaign of agitation, distortion, and provocation launched by Israeli officials against Syria immediately after the signing of the Gaza-Jericho agreement can only be explained as an announcement of a wide Israeli move aimed at consummating the implementation of what has been accomplished and obstructing the achievement of a just and comprehensive peace. In other words, Israel is now doing its best to destroy the very basis and framework of the peace process. It is trying to hide its intentions by leveling accusations at others in order to acquit itself of these accusations.

Israel is currently launching a broad campaign to mislead world public opinion into thinking that the partial agreement achieved by the Gaza-Jericho agreement is the historic peace deal in the Middle East and that whoever criticizes this solution will be obstructing peace. Reality proves otherwise. Pointing out the negative aspects and deficiencies of a partial solution emanates from the belief that a comprehensive solution based on justice alone is the solution that can bring lasting peace, stability, and reassurance to the region.

Israel's annoyance at the comprehensive Syrian view of a solution is demonstrated by its campaign of fabrications, agitation, and distortion against Syria. This only further consolidates Syria's position and its comprehensive view of a solution, because of its belief that this is the main pillar for achieving a lasting peace.

From this premise, Syria always emphasizes its adherence to the well-known framework and bases of the peace

process, and announces its willingness to continue cooperating with the cosponsors of the peace process in accordance with the bases and principles to which these cosponsors are committed. The cosponsors pledged to act as the main catalyst for this process until it achieves its objectives in terms of a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

Syria's credibility regarding real peace cannot be doubted, despite all of Israel's campaigns of provocation and agitation. The entire world is aware of Syria's firm commitments to the peace process and its serious stand toward achieving a just and comprehensive peace. Meanwhile, the contradictory Israeli position is becoming clearer—a position that talks about peace in public and seeks to destroy the peace process behind the scenes by resorting to separate and partial solutions.

For the sake of fairness, we say that even former Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir was more faithful to his position when he announced, in secret and in public, his opposition to the peace process and then worked against it. Meanwhile, current Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin is boasting about his approval of this peace process while he is seeking to destroy it behind the scenes. What is worse is that while exercising this policy of deception, he is accusing others of exercising it. He is only deceiving and misleading himself.

'Frenzied' Anti-Syria Campaign by Israel Seen

JN2809084593 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 28 Sep 93

[From the press review]

[Text] Discussing established Arab principles, AL-BA'TH comments: Since 1970, Syria has been the Arab nation's safety valve, protector, and nurturer, as well as savior of supreme Arab interests from ferocious onslaughts and conspiracies.

AL-BA'TH adds: Syria has throughout acted from a number of established principles. These are: The Palestinian cause is the Arabs' foremost concern, a fair and comprehensive solution to the Middle East problem stands no chance unless anchored in international law and unless it provides for the liberation of all occupied Arab territory and the recognition of all Arab rights and Palestinian statehood.

Any climb down on the Arabs' part, the paper emphasizes, can only result in further retreats. Arab rights should not

be subject to the whim of this or that person, no matter how high in standing. Rights should be the expression of the aspirations of the masses. No matter what the scale of their suffering and torment, it is uncharacteristic of nations to capitulate or submit to their enemies seeking to force accomplished facts on them. Recent developments have validated Syria's credible and sound position and its political orientation regarding a comprehensive and just peace in the Middle East in general and the Palestinian people's case in particular.

AL-BA'TH concludes by saying: Peace is indivisible; if it was made by stages, it would be a mockery and would only help Israel's expansionist agenda and entrench its presence in the occupied Arab territories and open the field wide for it to realize its political and economic objectives at the expense of Arab interests and existence.

TISHRIN, discussing Israel's anti-Syria campaigns, writes: The Israelis have lately escalated their attacks on Syria and its potent argument that movement on one Arab track should not be allowed to set back progress on the other tracks. Doubtless, the frenzied, hysterical attack on Syria—scorned by all those who are concerned about the peace process—seeks, among other things, to promote all too transparent Israeli policies. Thus, the anti-Syria campaign, TISHRIN adds, shows once again that the Israelis are not about to abandon their obstructionist approach to the peace process or their negative stand on UN resolutions. After Yitzhaq Rabin, now comes Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres to make unwarranted accusations against Syria on the eve of his departure for New York to attend the 48th UN General Assembly session. It is strange that Peres should now say that more needs to be done than the termination of the Arab boycott of Israel and that President Hafiz al-Asad holds all the cards. As we follow such Israeli remarks, we can only emphasize that Israel alone stands against the guidelines espoused by the international community for a just and real peace. As far as the search for a just and comprehensive peace, Israel is the odd man out. Most officials in capitals that can potentially influence Middle East developments will testify to the soundness of Syria's position and value Syria's constructive cooperation to make peace along the lines of Resolutions 242 and 338 and the land for peace formula, as well as a comprehensive solution on all fronts and tracks.

TISHRIN concludes by saying: As long as Israel clings to the occupied Arab territory, any talk about peace is pointless. Nor can anyone propose an end to the boycott of Israel by ignoring its origins—occupation and theft of our Arab territory.

Afghanistan

Communists Said To Back Plan To Restore King

PM2809161393 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic
24 Sep 93 pp 1, 4

[Ahmad Muwaffaq Zaydan report: "Plan To Return Zahir Shah to Power? Talk of Monarchist-Communist Coup Reemerges in Kabul"]

[Excerpt] Peshawar—There has been renewed talk in Kabul of a plan being prepared by a number of former communist officers and supporters of former King Zahir Shah to overthrow the mojahedin government in preparation for the king's return to power.

Well-informed Afghan sources told AL-HAYAH yesterday that the plan is aimed at overthrowing the government headed by Golboddin Hekmatyar and appointing Seyyed Ahmad Gilani, leader of the National Islamic Front [of Afghanistan], who advocates Zahir Shah's return, to head a government comprised of technocrats who held ministerial posts in the monarchist era.

The sources added that a number of former communist generals, among them General Babajan [as transliterated], currently commander of the Central Corps in Kabul, are planning the coup. The sources pointed out that generals who held sensitive military posts in the days of former Presidents Babrak Karmal and Najibullah have been summoned to help implement the plan.

The sources cited an interview conducted with Gen. Babajan by the weekly newspaper AKHBAR HAFTAH in Kabul, in which he emphasized that the Defense Ministry is seeking to expand the security belt around the city so as to reach the Jahl Stun [as transliterated] area to the south with a view to keeping the forces of Hezb-e Islami, led by the prime minister, away from the area.

Reliable Afghan sources have said that Gilani has accepted the plan and agreed to head the government, especially as Hekmatyar's and President Borhanoddin Rabbani's terms expire early next month, the date set for the formation of an elected government in accordance with the Jalalabad accord reached in May. No elections have been held because of the Afghan factions' disagreement over ways of organizing them. [passage omitted]

Kabul Garrison Bans Modified Vehicles

LD2809194593 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1600 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Announcement by the General Command of Kabul Garrison]

[Text] It has been observed that a number of people are using vehicles, whose windows are covered with plastic and curtains and on which additional antennas have been installed in order to confuse security personnel, to kidnap Kabul citizens in compliance with orders from

their masters. A number of these people have so far been captured by the security forces and handed over to the authorities.

In order to prevent such anti-Islamic and inhumane acts, the General Command of Kabul Garrison announces:

No vehicle whose windows are covered with plastic and curtains and with additional antennas installed on it, is now allowed to be driven in Kabul city. If seen, such vehicles will be stopped by security personnel and the perpetrators will be dealt with in accordance with the law. Those esteemed (organs) who want the windows of their vehicles to be curtained and covered, could send written requests to [words indistinct] of the Kabul Garrison and thus obtain special cards for the purpose.

Rabbani Decree Names New Government Officials

LD2809205193 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Text] By decrees of esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, the following appointments have been made: esteemed Mohammad Sediq Chakari as minister councillor to the Presidency of Afghanistan and first deputy minister of education, esteemed Mohammad Yaqub Barakzai as minister councillor in health and higher education to the Presidency of Afghanistan.

Rabbani Receives French Ambassador

LD2809195493 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Text] Esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, this morning met Mr. Pierre Lafpance, ambassador and representative extraordinary of France in Islamabad, who has recently come to Kabul. The press office of the Presidency reported to BIA that during the meeting talks were conducted on the expansion of relations of the two countries, the cooperation and participation of France in the reconstruction and revival of Afghanistan, and the reopening of the French Embassy in Kabul.

India

Truckers' Strike Called Off Following Agreement

BK2809151393 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Text] The 13-day old strike by the truck operators has been called off. This was announced at a joint press conference jointly addressed by the minister for surface transport, Mr. Jagdish Tytler, and the president of the All India Motor Transport Congress, Mr. A.U. Sharif, in New Delhi this evening. This followed two days marathon discussions. Mr. Tytler said that he will convene a meeting of the Transport Development Council on Friday to reconsider the hike in the composite permit fee

from 1,500 to 5,000 rupees. The minister said he held talks with a number of chief ministers who have indicated their readiness to reduce the fee from 5,000 to 3,000 rupees. He said he is also advising the state governments to revalidate the canceled permits and allow the payments of the composite fee to be made till the 30th of next month. He said he has asked the state governments to withdraw the cases against the truck operators and release all those arrested.

Rao Hints at Economic Liberalization Measures

BK2809122593 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Text] The prime minister today indicated further liberalization of policies to boost foreign investments and the farm and industrial exports. Inaugurating the annual general meeting of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry [FICCI] in New Delhi today, Mr. Narasimha Rao said preparations are being made with care on measures to be taken in identified areas where reforms are to be made in future. The government is undertaking changes in various laws, including Companies Act and FERA [Foreign Exchange Regulation Act]. Policies are under formulation to provide facilities for exporters with proven track record. Automatic authorization of foreign investment to upgrade technology, rationalization of tax to move towards a value added tax system are under consideration. He said policies are also to be adopted to promote agricultural exports in areas where surpluses are available.

The prime minister said in pursuing structural reforms we must ensure that the stabilization program does not suffer. While the reforms are in progress, social returns must not be out of alignment. Besides, the reforms must be cemented on the basis of widespread public support. To do this, caution and prudence has to be exercised in reallocating the limited resources.

Later, the prime minister gave away the FICCI award for 1992 and launched a business information network of FICCI—Businet—and the international exhibition of manufacturing 1994.

Exports Estimate Show 27 Percent Rise in 4 Months

BK2809051293 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1615 GMT 27 Sep 93

[Text] The commerce minister, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, has said that the country's export performance in the first four months of the current financial year has been encouraging. Addressing the representatives of the Export Promotion Council and Commodity Board in New Delhi today, Mr. Mukherjee said goods and services meant for exports have to be cost-effective and of high quality. He said the government will extend all possible help to the Export Promotion Council and the Commodity Board in achieving the export target.

Reviewing the export performance, he said sectors should be identified where India has a comparative advantage and could attain a lead over others. Export performance of all agro and manufactured products was reviewed. India's exports in the first four months are estimated at over \$6,916 million. As compared to the same period in the last financial year, this is an increase of over 27 percent.

More Than 340 Foreign Ventures Approved

BK2809124693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Text] The government has cleared more than 340 foreign technical and financial collaborations in the first half of the current year. Majority of them are of computers, chemicals, garments, hotel industry, and automobile sector.

Delhi, FRG Discuss Expanding Security Council

BK2809123693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Text] India and Germany have agreed to work together for the expansion of the 15-member Security Council to make it more representative. The issue came up during a meeting between the external affairs minister, Mr. Dinesh Singh, and the German foreign minister, Mr. Klaus Kinkel. The two ministers, who are in New York to attend the United Nations General Assembly session, had wide-ranging discussion on matters of mutual interest and international issues.

Iran

Velayati Confers With Ministers in New York

LD2809224093 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 2030 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Text] The foreign affairs ministers of Jordan, Turkey, and Venezuela, who are in New York in order to attend the forthcoming UN General Assembly, met and conferred with our country's foreign affairs minister.

In these separate meetings, which took place on Monday night in New York, the foreign affairs minister of Jordan expressed his country's willingness to expand diplomatic relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Turkish Foreign Affairs Minister Hikmet Cetin held a discussion with Velayati about issues that interest the two countries, as well as bilateral ties and current international developments.

Moreover, the foreign affairs minister of Venezuela met and conferred with Velayati. He expressed his country's interest in expanding ties with Iran and enjoying bilateral cooperation in OPEC and other international forums.

Velayati is currently in New York in order to take part in the 48th UN General Assembly. In his address to the assembly next week, he will describe the stances of the Islamic Republic of Iran toward international issues.

Further on Velayati Meetings

*NC2909114993 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT
29 Sep 93*

[Text] Foreign Minister Velayati, who is in New York to participate in the UN General Assembly, met yesterday with the foreign ministers of several countries—namely Pakistan, Jordan, Turkey, Bahrain, and Japan—on the margins of this assembly. Our correspondent in New York reports on this:

[Unidentified correspondent] In his meeting with Pakistani Foreign Minister Abdus Sattar, the foreign minister discussed bilateral relations, problems of the world of Islam, and the two countries' cooperation in international forums.

In his meeting with Talal al-Hasan, Jordanian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, the willingness to expand bilateral cultural-economic relations was welcomed. While condemning the disgraceful accord between the PLO and the Zionist regime, our foreign minister referred to the significance and sanctity of Jerusalem as the first kiblah of the Muslims and the place from where the great Prophet of Islam ascended to heaven, and he expressed the Muslims' dissatisfaction over the compromise.

At Turkish Foreign Minister Ismet Cetin's meeting with Velayati, the situation in the Republic of Azerbaijan and Serbia's war against the Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina were discussed.

After his meeting with Dr. Velayati, the Bahraini foreign minister spoke about the importance of cooperation among all Persian Gulf countries and called for the regional countries to confront foreign interventions and for the preservation of Persian Gulf security by all the countries of the region.

In his meeting with Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati, the Japanese foreign minister referred to the important role that the Islamic Republic of Iran plays in Persian Gulf stability and security and to the significance that his country attaches to relations with Iran, and he asked for our country's views on the opposition to the accord between the PLO and the regime usurping Jerusalem.

In reply Dr. Velayati said: The Islamic Republic of Iran believes that no one can sell off the holy land of Palestine without the consent of the Palestinian nation and on its behalf. Jerusalem is the first kiblah of the Muslims and belongs to all the Muslims of the world. Our foreign minister added: The Palestinian problem cannot be solved with propaganda. We request that the Japanese government independently state what is just and not be swayed by the propaganda and persuasions of others. Our foreign minister said: Instead of really aiming to vindicate the

rights of the Palestinian nation and ensure peace, this plan is a propaganda commotion without any guarantee that in the future it will ensure peace in the area.

[Announcer] Our correspondent adds in his report: Also, during Velayati's meetings with the foreign ministers of Romania, Hungary, Uruguay, Greece, Malaysia, and Sri Lanka, bilateral relations and regional and international problems including Bosnia-Herzegovina were discussed.

Joint ECO-UNICEF Session Meets in New York

*NC2909104193 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT
29 Sep 93*

[Text] The first joint session of the Economic Cooperation Organization—ECO—and UNICEF was held yesterday on the margins of the 48th session of the UN General Assembly in New York. During this meeting, which was attended by the ECO member-countries' foreign ministers, UNICEF's executive director reported on progress in the health field in the ECO founding countries.

This morning Foreign Minister Velayati gave an interview in New York to our correspondent and commented on the topics discussed at the session. He said:

[Begin recording] [Velayati] During today's joint session of ECO foreign ministers and the UNICEF management, Executive Director Grant of UNICEF—a UN-affiliated organization which deals with the health and hygiene of children—called on the ECO members to organize a meeting between ECO health ministers and high-ranking UNICEF officials in one of the ECO member countries in the coming months. After discussions, it was decided this meeting will be held either in Tehran or in the Kyrgyz capital of Bishkek to discuss the transfer of the experiences and know-how of the three founding countries of Pakistan, Turkey, and Iran to the newly independent countries of the former Soviet Union as well as to Afghanistan. If these three countries are able to extend their scientific-technical assistance to the newly independent countries, they will greatly promote regional hygiene in this sensitive part of the world; and UNICEF is ready to extend assistance in all aspects of children's health in the vast area which belongs to the ECO members. I would also stress that Mr. Grant also lauded the Islamic Republic's extremely successful steps in expanding its health services network as well as the positive results in improving children's health and hygiene in Iran. [end recording]

Envoy Addresses OPCW Session in The Hague

*LD2809194493 Tehran IRNA in English 1535 GMT
28 Sep 93*

[Text] The Hague, Sept. 28, IRNA—Ambassador Sirus Nasseri of Iran said here Monday that the convention on

the prohibition of the development, production, stockpiling and use of chemical weapons and on their destruction is a unique treaty eliminating a class of weapons of mass destruction.

Chairing the fourth plenary session of the preparatory commission for the 'OPCW' (Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons) Nasserri in his opening statement added that chemical weapons have been used extensively in the past and form an essential component of the military posture of certain states.

He added: "Now the international community has opted for a zero option. This constitutes a historic international achievement."

The OPCW commission which started work here Monday and is to last through October 1, was established for the enforcement of Paris convention for prohibition of chemical weapons with 146 signatory states.

Nasserri, Iran's ambassador to the U.N. in Geneva, in his speech, called the convention "result of over two decades of relentless efforts by the international community to remove these barbarous weapons from our planet."

He went on to say: "The convention made good on the general conviction that our human civilization is better off without weapons of mass destruction and that theories based on balance of terror are no longer tolerated."

The commission chairman also underlined the fact that soon there will be a single, reliable, global verification system accepted by the entire international community. This puts the international community in full charge and give it the necessary means of determining where, when, and by whom a violation has occurred and what needs to be done to redress it.

Nasserri, exploring the importance of active participation of all signatory states, said: "Not only will it contribute to better preparation for implementation of the convention at the global level, but it also gives each individual state a good advantage when they begin considering ratification."

The commission, at its fourth session, is to pay further consideration to the composition of inspection teams as well as recommendation and reports of the various expert groups, review the status of the infrastructure, personnel and external relation activities of the secretariat and consider and approve format of the meeting and the draft agenda.

Nasserri, who was elected OPCW chairman for the second six months period beginning in August, called on member states not to wait to see the end of preparation process to gear up for its implementation.

"The more they are engaged now, the more familiar they will be with the various aspects and the details of this convention. I, therefore, take the liberty to encourage all

signatory states, particularly the developing countries, to try to enhance their participation in our exercise at all levels," Nasserri concluded.

Bonn, Tokyo Asked To Oppose PLO-Israel Accord

*LD2909114793 Tehran IRNA in English 1112 GMT
29 Sep 93*

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 29, IRNA—A morning daily Wednesday editorialized on the recent PLO-Israeli agreement and recommended governments in Bonn and Tokyo not to become tools in the hands of the U.S. and the Zionists for imposing pressures on Iran to force it support the accord.

"JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI" was referring to the recent call by the U.S. and the Zionist regime on Germany and Japan to use economic levers to silence Iran vis-a-vis the PLO-Zionists compromise.

Strong opposition of Muslim nations, including the Palestinians, is a major obstacle on the way of materialization of the compromise and as long as this opposition exists there is no hope for success, wrote the article.

The paper called on Bonn and Tokyo not to betray the prestige of their nations for the satisfaction of international Zionism.

It added that the Japanese nation who were still bearing deep scars of Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombing, certainly were not unwilling to see their country become a tool in the hands of Americans to the interest of the Zionists.

The U.S. and its allies have examined the Iranian nation several times and have concluded each time that the nation would bear severe economic sanctions, military and political pressures but would never give up its Islamic ideals and national interests, the paper concluded.

Officials Hold Talks With French Finance Minister

*LD2909085493 Tehran IRNA in English 0809 GMT
29 Sep 93*

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 29, IRNA—Iran and France Tuesday discussed expansion of bilateral economic cooperation as well as removal of obstacles in this direction. The talks were held in Washington between Iran's Vice-President for Economic Affairs Mohsen Nurbakhsh and Mohammad Hoseyn Vahaji in charge of Economy and Finance Ministry with French Minister of Economy and Finance Edmond Alphandery.

The Iranian delegation is currently in Washington for sessions of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank.

During the meeting, the two sides decided to appoint representatives to make contacts in future to solve existing problems. Alphandery called the trend of mutual relations

as good and voiced his country's readiness to upgrade bilateral ties and remove the existing bottlenecks.

Western Categorizations of Press Chided

NC2509112293 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL
in English 16 Sep 93 p 2

[Editorial comment: "From 'Radical' to 'Pro-Government'"]

[Text] In what has turned out to be routine practice, the western print and broadcast media recall news and views in Iranian newspapers within their (West's) self-invented categories long rejected by free thinkers and intellectuals as obsolete.

For instance excerpts from Kayhan International's political commentaries/editorials more often than not reproduced by international wire-services and other assorted publications, are tagged with the affiliations "pro-government", or "radical", or "following (President Akbar Hashemi) Rafsanjani's line"...

If anything, such attributions only convey one message. Despite the exorbitant sums the Zionists and the so-called think-tanks invest in studying the Islamic Republic and its institutions, they have not yet come to appropriate conclusions. The other point worth mentioning is that our known and unknown adversaries do not want to accept that in today's Iran there are writers who do not associate with any specific political, economic or social thinking.

We at Kayhan International are not unaware that a very significant section of the western press is directly controlled by interest-groups which influence most of its editorial opinion. To say the least, the affiliations they have earmarked for us are yet other indications of confusion in the ranks of western analysts covering the Islamic Republic.

Afghan Mojahedin Urged To Resolve Differences

LD2809131693 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1102 GMT
28 Sep 93

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The second congress for the examination of Afghanistan's political problems began work at Kabul University yesterday. The main axis of discussion in the congress is the ways in which parliamentary and presidential elections can be held in Afghanistan.

Political analysts who follow Afghan affairs consider this congress to be one of the most important during the past 15 months, because issues are being discussed in the congress which relate to Afghanistan's main problem at the moment. The question of parliamentary and presidential elections has been one of the issues that has caused disputes since the coming to power of the Afghan

mojahedin in that country, and it has thus far led to a number of bloody clashes between Afghanistan's mojahedin groups.

Another point which adds to the importance of this congress is the fact that the leaders of the mojahedin groups are taking part. Seven major political parties are taking part in the congress, and appearances suggest that they are all agreed about several points in relation to the parliamentary and presidential elections. These points are as follows: The participation of all the parties and groups in the elections; the fair delineation of electoral constituencies according to population distribution; and respect for the rights of minorities and refugees.

Overlooking these principles in the past has repeatedly led to clashes between political groups in Afghanistan. Another important aspect of this congress is the proximity of the elections, because the congress can serve as an important step toward bringing the views of the different groups closer together and, in effect, resolving problems before they occur.

Efforts have also been made, before holding the congress, to draw up a provisional constitution for Afghanistan. If we consider the crisis of sovereignty as one of Afghanistan's main current problems, we must assume that the absence of a constitution in that country is one of the main causes. The constitution forms the foundation of a country's structure and, without a strong foundation, one cannot place much hope in the structures.

On this basis, the recent efforts of the leaders of the mojahedin groups to devise a new constitution, albeit only provisionally, can be an important step toward the establishment of peace and security in Afghanistan and toward ending the crisis of sovereignty in that country.

The experience of past battles has shown that overlooking the rights of any one of the groups in the power structure leads to clashes. It is hoped that Afghanistan's mojahedin groups will do everything in their power, by considering every aspect of the situation, to end the political and military clashes, to resolve existing differences peacefully and to use all their resources for the reconstruction of a powerful Afghanistan.

Official Denies Tehran Seeking Nuclear Weapons

LD2509105493 Tehran IRNA in English 1032 GMT
25 Sep 93

[Text] Vienna, Sept. 25, IRNA—Iran's representative to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) here Friday rejected biased fabricated reports on Iran's efforts to gain nuclear arms.

Mohammad Sadeq Ayatollahi said that IAEA, as the sole authorized international body to control and monitor nuclear activities throughout the world, has categorically denied such rumours.

He further added that Iran, a signatory to the Non-Proliferation Treaty, has invited the IAEA to inspect

Iran's nuclear activities, done only for peaceful purposes, in any part of the country any time the agency deemed necessary. Therefore, he noted, an unprecedented reciprocal trust was dominating over relations existing between Iran and the IAEA.

An eight-member Iranian delegation will take part in the 37th general conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), to be held here October 26. The delegation will be headed by Vice-President and head of Iran's Atomic Energy Organization Reza Amrollahi.

Representatives from 114 countries will take part in the gathering which will end work on October 30.

President Stresses Harmony Between Islam, Science

LD2809122893 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Text] The academic year 1993-94 began officially today at universities and higher education centers throughout the country, with a speech by Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

At a gathering of university staff and students, the head of the Supreme Cultural Revolution Council emphasized the importance of the higher education sector as the most fundamental part of the country's structure. He referred to the special attention paid to higher education by the government in the second plan. He said: [announcer-read throughout] The atmosphere in universities and higher educational establishments have been designed in such a way as to provide the opportunities for talents to flourish and for higher educational facilities to be used in the best possible way for a large number of people who are interested in learning and acquiring knowledge. He added: It can be said that with the effective implementation of the policies and compiled programs of the second five-year plan, we are closer to justice in this sector.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani pointed to the over twofold increase in students and teaching staff of universities and also the provision of resources to raise the quality and quantity of higher education, especially in the deprived regions. He said: We are proud today before the people and university staff and students; we endeavor to respond to the future needs of the society by continuing with the policy of strengthening the country's higher education.

The head of the Supreme Cultural Revolution Council, in his remarks, defined the status of knowledge and specialization in Islam and the role of experts and scholars in the independence and the political, economic, cultural, and social power of the country, noting the importance of links with academic institutions.

Stressing the need for maintaining links with the developed world's scientific and technical centers and utilizing the existing scientific resources all over the world,

Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: To sever links with the advanced scientific and educational institutions of the world will never serve the country's interests; and in view of the fast means of communication in the world and the end of the era when science and technology were monopolized by the developed world, we must establish links with the world scientific centers to fully exploit the existing resources and capabilities of the world. This policy will be seriously pursued during the second plan.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani stressed the need for creating a relaxed scientific atmosphere in universities to attract the Iranian experts living abroad. He said: We must attract this country's brains irrespective of their political beliefs and particular family backgrounds. We must not alienate them from the country and the revolution for ever.

The president added: A climate must be created to allow those, whose taste differ from ours, to breathe in this country, to work and cooperate with us.

The president, laying stress on revolutionary principles and values and emphasizing the need for arming the country's educated strata and university staff with religious science, piety and spirituality, said: We strongly believe that values of the Islamic revolution are in harmony with the world scientific developments; and if weaknesses are felt in some places, this is the sign of deviation.

He continued: We can claim that it is possible to maintain a combined morale of piety, knowledge, technology and revolutionary values for ever.

On the role played by the Vali-e Faqih's representatives at universities in maintaining a healthy atmosphere in universities, the president said: I expect these representatives to bestow greater Islamic kindness upon the university academic staff and regard them as sympathetic teachers.

Referring to the esteemed leader's [Khamene'i] particular favor and instructions of our dear late imam [Khomeyni] as permanent resources for the universities' work, the president expressed the hope that the new academic year will bring success to everyone.

Khamene'i Warns Guards Against 'Material Glitter'

LD2909115193 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 29 Sep 93

[Excerpts] Today His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic revolution and commander in chief, made a speech at the joint morning ceremony of the air, land and sea units of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC). He said that the IRGC is a great and reliable force for the future of Islamic ideals. He stressed the importance of the Islamic Republic of Iran persevering on the correct path which she has chosen from the beginning. The ceremony was held on the anniversary of

the imam's command concerning the formation of the IRGC Air Force, at the IRGC Air Force training center for cadre NCOs.

In his speech the commander in chief described the IRGC as an orderly, disciplined, trained and adept military organization rich in spirituality. [passage omitted stressing the importance of training and coordination with the other armed forces to increase the country's defensive capability, praising Khomeyni's leadership in the victory of the Islamic revolution and the role of the IRGC, praising the country's youth for their tendency toward spirituality]

The leader of the Islamic revolution said material glitter is corruption in the life of mankind. Stressing that it is contrary to human achievement and fulfillment he said: Despite denials by western politicians and screams from propagandists of arrogance, western scholars today admit that material glitter is corruption in the life of mankind, and that only through ignoring it can man be saved, justice established in the life of mankind, and God's straight path rule.

His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i said the use of science in the service of force and deception is a bitter truth. At the end of his speech he stressed the importance of utilizing powerful and well-equipped forces, armed with sense, wisdom, religion, logic and reasoning and currently-used weapons, to combat that evil deed of the enemies of mankind.

According to this report, Chief of the General Command Headquarters Dr. Firuzabadi, IRGC Commander Major General Mohsen Reza'i, the representative of the supreme jurisconsult in the IRGC, the acting commander and chief of the IRGC Joint Staff, and commanders of the IRGC Air Force, took part in the ceremony. [passage omitted]

Majles To Debate on Finance Minister Candidate

LD2909113693 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 29 Sep 93

[Excerpts] At the Majles open session this morning, a letter from Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani was read out in which Mr. Morteza Mohammadkhan was introduced as candidate for the post of finance and economic affairs minister. According to Majles' internal rules and procedures, it has one week to start its debate on this candidate. [passage omitted]

According to our correspondent's report, in today's session a single-urgency bill on prohibiting increases in medical treatment costs was put forward but not approved. Also during the session, the resignation of Mr. Mohammad Reza Rahimi, the Majles deputy from Sanandaj [in Kordestan Province], was submitted to the Majles. [passage omitted]

Pakistan

Prominent Muslim League Leader Assassinated

BK2909092293 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0900 GMT 29 Sep 93

[Text] Ghulam Haider Wyne, Prominent Muslim League leader and former chief minister of Punjab, was shot dead this morning by unknown gunmen near (Tilamber) near Khanewal District. He was coming back from (Masadpur) by a car where he had gone in connection with the election campaign. The gunmen stopped his car and ordered the driver and two other persons travelling with him to come out of the car. They punctured the car's tires and later killed Ghulam Haider Wyne in a volley of bullets. The car's driver was also seriously injured and he is still unconscious. Two other persons travelling with him have also been injured. Widespread condemnation of his cold-blooded murder is being reported.

Cabinet Restores Women's Assembly Seats

BK2709154593 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 27 Sep 93

[Text] The federal cabinet, which met in Islamabad today, approved a draft bill restoring 20 women's seats in the National Assembly and allowing 5 percent women's seats in the four provincial assemblies. The provincial assemblies will form the electoral college for the National Assembly seats and respective assemblies will also elect women on their 5 percent seats.

The cabinet, which was presided over by the caretaker prime minister, Mr. Moin Qureshi, also approved reforms in the tariff structure and took steps for the promotion of petroleum production in the country. The tariff reforms aim to rationalize the import and export activities in the country, envisaging improvement in efficiency and in resources in the years to come. Steps in the petroleum sector aim to improve on and offshore production and future requirements of the country.

The cabinet also approved an amendment in the Karachi Port Trust Act of 1886 to keep marine environment free from pollution. The amendment will enable the authorities to impose a fine up to 10 million rupees on those found guilty of polluting marine environment. The cabinet also decided to hand over Karachi Shipyard and Engineering Works to the Defense Ministry. The cabinet finalized an ordinance seeking amendment in the Companies Act, which will restrict defaulters of loan from being directors of the companies.

Later, briefing newsmen on the decisions of the cabinet, the federal minister for information and broadcasting, Mr. Nisar Memon, said the federal cabinet expressed satisfaction over the recovery of arrears. He said we are on target for the month of September. In respect of telephone bills, the government has recovered 400 million rupees from the private sector. Eighty seven thousand phones which were disconnected for nonpayment of bills have been restored.

As regards gas bills, 46 percent recovery has been made from domestic and 80 percent from commercial consumers. Out of total arrears of 251 million rupees, 116 million rupees have been covered.

In reply to a question, the minister said the government does not have any plans to rehold elections in case of a low turnout. The government is gearing all its machinery to motivate voters for participation in the elections. We hope to have a reasonably good turnout in the elections, he added.

Murtaza Bhutto Not To Accept Surrender Terms

*BK2709122193 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English
26 Sep 93 pp 1, 12*

[Text] September 25—Mir Murtaza Bhutto, brother of the PPP [Pakistan People's Party] Co-Chairperson Ms Benazir Bhutto, said he would finally decide in the next 3 to 5 days whether or not to return home before elections but emphatically stated that he wanted amnesty for his colleagues and would not accept the surrender terms offered to him.

In an interview with the BBC on telephone from Damascus, Mir Murtaza Bhutto said, he had not received direct messages but through indirect messages he had been asked to surrender on return home and give witnesses against his colleagues. He said he would not give witnesses against his colleagues and this was not acceptable to him.

He said he had surrendered some seats on the appeal of his mother Begum Nusrat Bhutto. He first wanted that the seats won by him and later vacated would be given to the poor, students and workers to bring them to the assemblies.

Murtaza Bhutto said he was not contesting the election on personal basis and made a political appeal to the people to support him. He said his mother had not appealed to him for her person but for the PPP because according to her my (Murtaza) contesting the elections on so many seats would damage the party. He said he could have criticised the PPP on several issues and points but he avoided this. He said if the PPP workers vote for him, he could not help it.

Asked whether he was satisfied with the leadership of the PPP, Murtaza Bhutto said, only a worker of the party could give his views on that. He said he was not a member of the PPP and could not give his point of view.

In reply to a question that his decision to contest elections had created problems for the PPP, Murtaza Bhutto said it was a matter of pride for him that a person living outside and without a party machinery could cause problems for a strong and big party like the PPP. However, he said a verdict would be given by the people of Pakistan as to who was strong or weak.

Movement of Indian Troops on Control Line Noted

*BK2709144193 Rawalpindi JANG in Urdu 27 Sep 93
pp 8, 5*

[Text] Batiawala—India has amassed its troops, arms and ammunition, and food materials on a massive scale on the Line of Control in Azad Kashmir and there is an increase in the movement of Indian troops along the cease-fire line in the past 10 days. The Indian troops are firing on the civilian population and wayfarers also and are not allowing the landlords to harvest their produce or cut grass in their fields on the border. According to reports, the Indian soldiers have also begun to set up fortifications and dig trenches near the Line of Control. During night patrols, the Indian troops also use search lights. Reports also say that India has sent its RAW [Research and Analysis Wing] agents into Azad Kashmir for subversive activities in order to create disorder there. Another report says India has sealed the entire border belt and Indian soldiers, along with laying dangerous barbed wire, have also attached bells to the wire. Now there is tension on the Line of Control.

India's Rao Remarks on Kashmir Termed 'Strategy'

*BK2809111593 Islamabad THE NEWS in English
28 Sep 93 p 7*

[Editorial: "Prisoner of Rhetoric"]

[Text] On Kashmir, the Narasimha Rao government has repeatedly crossed the thin line that divides diplomacy from doublespeak. On the one hand, it has been relentlessly accusing Islamabad of stoking the fires of the Kashmiri freedom movement, and has been escalating repression in the Valley. On the other hand, it has sought to distract international attention away on the gross human rights abuses in the Valley by its vacuous refrain of offering talks with Pakistan to resolve the problem. The purpose behind this doublespeak is transparent: to fudge the reality of its growing crimes against the Kashmiri people.

That is why statements such as the one made by Mr Rao this Friday, in which he blamed Islamabad for the umpteenth time for complicating the Kashmir problem, have to be seen as part of a studied strategy designed to keep Islamabad on the defensive through a blitzkrieg of accusations, while distracting the attention of the world community by churning out lies. And at the same time press ahead with its policy of repression in the Valley.

While Indian leaders show no sign of changing their policy on Kashmir, for all practical purposes this has dissolved into utter failure. To begin with, Delhi can no longer hide from the world what is happening inside Kashmir. Numerous international and even Indian human rights groups and organisations, have documented stream of evidence of reign of terror unleashed by Indian security forces against the local population. Leaders of various

countries of the world have, one way or the other, expressed their concern over the deteriorating situation in the Valley. During Mr Rao's recent visit to Iran, for instance, the Iranian spiritual leader, Ayatollah 'Ali Khomeini, told him that Tehran was concerned over the "military pressure on Kashmiri Muslims" whose situation was "totally unbecoming to India." These remarks signalled growing international concern over Delhi's human rights violations in the Valley.

Moreover, Delhi's constant tirade against Islamabad for its alleged involvement in the Kashmir crisis, has added another source of tensions in relations between the two countries. Time and again, various Indian leaders have levelled serious charges against Islamabad, but without substantiating any one of these. The fact of the matter is that Indian leaders effort to blame Pakistan for placing impediments in Indo-Pak ties is a classic case of the pot calling the kettle black.

Finally, Delhi's continued repression in Kashmir, and the daily dance of death that its soldiers stage in the Valley, have stiffened the resolve of the Kashmiri people to win freedom. More repression has only bred more resistance.

These facts speak for themselves, and Delhi can no longer hide from them. But it seems to have taken permanent refuge in its rhetoric against Pakistan. And more and more it is simply becoming a prisoner of rhetoric, whose effects on others have long diminished.

Article Views Nuclear Parity With India

BK2709151193 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English
27 Sep 93 p 6

[Article by Dr. Ali Mohammad]

[Text] Pakistan and India, two major Asian countries, are among the poorest in the world in terms of their per capita income at \$450 and \$370, respectively. They also have high population densities; 128 persons per square kilometre for Pakistan and 260 persons per square kilometre for India. Other social and income indicators such as health, education, and infrastructure are also abysmally low. Yet, they spend a huge share of their national budgets on defence (over 27 per cent in case of Pakistan vs nearly 9 per cent in India). They also spend a huge portion of their defence budget on the import of armaments, with a total import of \$500 million worth of arms. India is among the top ten importers of armaments in the world. Furthermore, they have wasted precious time and national resources in outdoing each other in propaganda and disinformation through domestic and international forums. It is silly for the leaders of two countries to be asking Washington, London, or Moscow to resolve issues that they can easily settle themselves if they have the will and courage to do so. But then it is suicidal for any political leader to undertake such a venture when small extremist groups, on both sides of the border, block any honest efforts. The result is a perpetual confrontational policy adopted by both countries.

The first and foremost step for India and Pakistan is to recognise each others sovereignty. History reveals that in the area of international relations yesterday's enemies are today's friends. For too long, the history of India and Pakistan has been written with the blood of the two people's, while they have lost many opportunities for prosperity. The Kashmir issue has been the major cause for long bloody relations between the two countries. This issue must be resolved in a form that is mutually acceptable to them. In the meantime, the two countries should determine their other security needs and work out a formula for an arms reduction programme, including the nuclear capability. Undoubtedly the nuclear issue is very close to the hearts and minds of both nations, and such a capability need not be sacrificed. However, there is ample scope for maintaining an acceptable balance between the two countries. The alternative could be a futile race for the stockpiling of nuclear arms which, at the end, could produce a nightmare for future generations even to maintain, or to dispose of.

The two countries need not debate whether they should sign the NPT. Firstly, even though the Cold War has long ended and there has been pressure from many quarters, the existing five major nuclear states have not given up their nuclear programmes, there is little hope that they will, in the foreseeable future, relinquish being a nuclear power. To maintain the nuclear option shall remain a critical instrument of their defence strategy, as well as a force of projection of their influence, both in terms of military and economic interests.

In the Middle East, by all published accounts Israel already possesses nuclear strike capability; other reports indicate that it has acquired some 200 nuclear bombs for its arsenal. Again, due to her national security concerns and military superiority over its Arab neighbours, it is difficult to imagine that Israel will ever renounce such an option. Several states in the region which resent the dominance of Israel and want to be treated with respect and equality already have programmes underway for developing a nuclear deterrent.

South Africa, another country which has also reportedly acquired nuclear capability will not forfeit this option. More recently, North Korea, allegedly close to possessing nuclear capability has abandoned NPT earlier this year; much protest and cajoling has not made it change this decision.

Also in the Far East, Japan is moving ahead with civilian nuclear programme. It fulfills nearly one-third of its energy requirements from some 41 reactors (USA has 113 and France 54). Similarly, Argentina, Brazil, and half-a-dozen other countries have strong nuclear programmes, although some of those who have signed NPT will keep their option open for "peaceful" use of nuclear technology.

In the South Asian context, India has already exploded a "peaceful" nuclear device back in 1974 in Pokhran and is reported to have developed scores of nuclear bombs since then. She is currently involved in developing more

sophisticated delivery systems and ballistic missiles. Pakistan, on the other hand, is somewhat behind India in this race. However, for its own security concerns and as a deterrent to India's strike capability as well as its energy requirements, Pakistan has no intentions of abandoning its nuclear programme. It should also not pay heed to suggestions such as made recently by the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace (Washington) for freezing "the stockpiling of missile material..." which can put Pakistan permanently in an imbalance relationship with India.

It is true that ever since Pakistan seriously began its nuclear programme in the mid-seventies, there has been no eruption of war; they last fought in 1971. Similarities are striking elsewhere; there has been no world war since 1945 as more countries have entered the nuclear club. Thus, the development of nuclear capability as well as its delivery systems by India and Pakistan, has ironically opened up new vistas of peace and cooperation. It is strange that a mutually destructive capacity can put sense in the heads of those who believed that they could solve everything by brute force or bullying. The achievement of a balance of power between the two countries has corrected such thinking!

The people of India and Pakistan have suffered enough because of perpetual hostilities. The countries have abundant natural resources, a hard working labour force, suitable agro-climatic conditions, adequate industrial base, and huge markets for each others' products. They can achieve and sustain faster economic growth rates. They have a lot of catching up to do if they wish to enter the 21st Century with dignity and assuring prosperity for the future generations. With the development of weaponry of mass destruction, they should now be convinced that war and the arms race will only bring them misery. To begin with, at this critical crossroad in their history they must explore with deepest conviction, the solutions to all their outstanding problems. For the nuclear issue, they must sit together for working out a mutually acceptable balance of nuclear arsenal which should be open for inspection by a joint committee from the two countries. This would constitute the first phase of arms reduction and confidence-building between them. There should be no disparity between the two in this regard which will cause a sense of insecurity or a disadvantage. A prominent Indian diplomat has suggested a mathematical nuclear ratio of 2:1 or 3:1 for India and Pakistan as an index which could be acceptable to the two countries. We strongly believe that parity of nuclear arms should be maintained to ensure a balance of power and stability in the region.

No sensible leadership in the region would ever start a nuclear war on its own. At the same time, other countries should be vigilant that no mad man or fanatic within or outside the government could trigger a nuclear holocaust in the region. The people of the Indo-Pakistan continent have a long history; they know that such a possibility will wipe out virtually millions on both sides and leave millions more to suffer the agony and legacy of a nuclear war.

Once enough of confidence is achieved, India and Pakistan, in the next phase, should begin strengthening economic and commercial relations which will bring prosperity for their people. There are considerable potentials for expanding trade and ample opportunities for complementing each others' economic sectors. As two giant members of SAARC, they must fulfil the cooperation in the spheres of economics and culture. There is a balanced economic development between India and Pakistan that will bring prosperity to both, and not at the expense of one or the other. Only then can a sustainable, healthy relationship develop between them.

Foreign Minister Terms Bosnian Peace Plan 'Cruel'

BK2809124093 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Text] Pakistan has described the international mediators' peace plan to divide Bosnia ethnically as cruel and unjust. Addressing the ICO [Islamic Conference Organization] Contact Group on Bosnia-Herzegovina at the United Nations, the Pakistan foreign minister, Mr. Abdus Sattar, said the plan rewards the aggressors. He said the Bosnian situation was very serious and has far-reaching implications for the Islamic countries and other smaller nations. The group proposed that the ICO ministerial meeting should ask the UN secretary general to call for international guarantees to ensure the survival and viability of the Muslim-majority republic. The contact group has met on the eve of the ICO ministerial meeting, which coordinates policies on issues before the General Assembly.

Sri Lanka

National Assets Register 15 Percent Increase

BK2809122793 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Text] The major challenge facing us today is managing the economy of Sri Lanka to achieve the long-term objective of improving the living standards of our people and alleviating poverty while preserving our freedom. This observation was made by the president, D.B. Wijetunga, yesterday while making the keynote address at a workshop on economic management in Kalutara. The president said that we have increased our assets by 15 percent amounting to \$1,775 million. This is good enough for about six months of our imports. We have a new generation of entrepreneurs who are now blazing new trails in world market. As a result, our average per capita income has gone up from 1,902 to 24,234 rupees. We have achieved this despite having 3.7 million more mouths to feed during the 16 years. The president explained in details the achievements in the fields of textiles, fisheries, and ports development. He pointed out that no government in the world has been able to bring prices down. Therefore, we should endeavor to

keep price increases to the minimum. One of the highest priorities of Sri Lanka's economic policy is to bring down inflation on the cost of living. He said if Sri Lanka is to develop, people should take a liking to do more work. No country in the world has many holidays as we have in Sri Lanka. Due to the welfare services in Sri Lanka, we are more healthier and a more educated nation compared to many other countries at our stage of development. We should endeavor to target our welfare measures to the really needy and not allow the affluent classes to hijack the disturbing poorest's state welfare. [sentence as heard]

Industrial Exports Record 31 Percent Growth

BK2409113293 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 24 Sep 93

[Text] Sri Lanka's industrial exports recorded a real growth of 31 percent in first half of the year compared to its industrial export earnings for the same period last year. Industrial exports now account for nearly 75 percent of Sri Lanka's total exports. Industrial export earnings during the period January to June 1993 amounted to 46.3 billion rupees compared to 32.1 billion rupees for the first six months of 1992. Of the non-garment industrial exports, processed diamonds grew 245 percent; rubber, tyres and tubes 56 percent; other rubber products 45 percent; and footwear 37 percent—all faster than the growth rate of garments. Chemical and plastic products grew 20 percent and ceramics by 17 percent. Readymade garment exports earned 18 billion rupees as against 11.4 billion rupees in the first six months of last year.

10 Truckloads of Contraband Seized by Army

BK2709125393 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 27 Sep 93

[Text] As the military high command cracked down hard on the smuggling of banned goods to Jaffna, 10 truckloads of prohibited items were seized by the weekend by the Army at the northern-most security check point at Tandikulam, two km from the Vavuniya docks, security

sources told LANKAPUVATH. The banned goods are taken by road to Kilinochchi and from there smuggled to Jaffna by the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] across the Jaffna lagoon along the Kilaly crossing. The banned goods smuggling racket had gone on undetected for several years. Last week, a consignment of engine oil and other banned items concealed in a false compartment in a Jaffna-bound truck, one of the fleet owned by an alleged LTTE agent based in Colombo, was found by CDB [Crime Detection Bureau] detectives.

About 100 families have defected from LTTE-dominated areas to territory under security forces control since June this year. They number 380 persons. While a large number came south to Vavuniya, the trend began to crystallize in mid-June at Puliyanakulam when 62 families numbering 179 persons crossed over to live free of Tiger control, military statistics reveal. These 179 persons defected in five batches over a 10 day period commencing 12 June. Senior military officials who monitored their exodus to Vavuniya, Cheddikulam forward defense localities said the defectors all came with tales of woe and of ill treatment under the Tigers. They came carrying only the minimum essentials, sometimes only the clothes they were wearing, so that they could make the crossing undetected by the LTTE. They declared themselves happy to settle under government control. They had left all their worldly goods, but that was a small price to pay for freedom from oppression, they said.

Five Police Killed in Operation Against LTTE

BK2809122893 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Text] The security forces are conducting its clearing operations in the Mannar District and troops cleared the area south of Vankalai despite heavy LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] resistance. In the ensuing battle Air Force fighter craft and artillery were used to engage the fleeing terrorists. The LTTE terrorists suffered heavy casualties and damages. Five security forces personnel were killed in action. The operation is still in progress. This was revealed by the operational headquarters of the Ministry of Defense.